



# EGYPT BOOKLET

## GLOBAL REFUGEE FORUM (GRF) PROGRESS REVIEW 2025

DECEMBER 2025



Namarek Bakry (12, left) and Khadiga Hassan (12, right), both from Sudan, were among the top-performing students in this summer's Instant Network Schools activities in 6th of October, part of the Vodafone Foundation – UNHCR programme. They each received a certificate and a prize in recognition of their dedication and progress.

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## SECTION 1. INTRODUCTION

Egypt has continuously demonstrated its support, offering refuge to those fleeing conflict and persecution. Egypt is home to over one million registered refugees and asylum seekers from several neighboring countries including Sudan, Syria, and South Sudan. In Egypt, the economy had already been impacted by COVID-19 and the war in Ukraine. In addition, the current regional escalations on the southern border with Sudan and on the eastern border with Gaza have further compounded the challenging economic situation.

Despite the economic constraints, Egypt continues to allow refugees and asylum seekers to access certain rights and services. In addition, Egypt has implemented some key principles of the Global Compact on Refugees (GCR) such as the out-of-camp policy.

The Egypt 2030 Vision has also adopted “inclusive sustainable development” as a guiding principle for the country’s long-term vision, ensuring that refugees and asylum seekers are treated equally to Egyptians in line with the “leaving no one behind” principle.

Despite the Government of Egypt’s (GoE) efforts, the strain on national already-scarce resources and the increasing number of new arrivals, continue to have a drastic impact on national institutional capacity to provide services and assistance to refugees, asylum seekers and local communities, especially in urban areas. Cairo alone hosts more than half a million registered refugees and asylum seekers.

### Refugees and Asylum Seekers in Egypt



**1.1M**

Total Registered Refugees and Asylum Seekers

**1.5M**

Sudanese have fled to Egypt, and an additional 67,067 third country nationals (TCNs), according to the Government of Egypt

**76%** Sudanese

**11%** Syrians

**13%** Other nationalities



**74%**

Women and Children



**19.2%**

Persons with Specific Needs

As of 30 November 2025, over one million refugees and asylum seekers from 62 nationalities are officially registered with UNHCR in Egypt. The country currently hosts the largest number of refugees and asylum seekers in its history. In 2024, Egypt was ranked globally as the second top receiving country of new asylum applications. Arrivals are expected to continue rising through 2026 due to the fragile conditions in countries of origin, particularly Sudan.

## SECTION 2. COMMITMENT TRANSLATED INTO ACTION

### 2.1. National Asylum Law

In 2024, Egypt decided to enact its first ever national asylum law (Asylum Law for Foreigners 164/2024) marking the country's long-term commitment and dedication to upholding international responsibilities of the 1951 Refugee Convention and the Organization of African Unity (OAU) Refugee Convention. As the first country in North Africa to enact a national asylum law, Egypt intended this step to serve as the foundation for building a comprehensive national asylum system aligned with international standards. The new law introduces key provisions that enable refugees and asylum seekers to access primary health care, basic education, and the formal labour market, while also formally guaranteeing their freedom of movement. Refugees are also entitled to valid residence documentation and access to a Convention Travel Document (CTD).

Additionally, the law prioritizes the processing of vulnerable asylum seeker groups including the elderly, pregnant women, unaccompanied children, victims of human trafficking, torture, or sexual violence. Under the Asylum Law, a National Permanent Refugee Committee (NPRC) will be established, involving all relevant line ministries and national governmental councils/bodies. The NPRC will be established under the Egyptian Cabinet and is currently in the process of being formulated.

UNHCR currently conducts reception, registration, documentation and Refugee Status Determination (RSD) activities on behalf of the Government. Once the GoE and UNHCR finalize the transition roadmap, these functions will be gradually handed over to the Government over the five-year transition period from 2026 to 2030. Most recently, in 2025, UNHCR presented the GoE with a transition roadmap that encompasses concrete support measures, practical steps, and a clear timeline. The GoE is currently drafting the Executive Regulations in consultation with all relevant national stakeholders.

### 2.2. National Egypt Refugee and Resilience Response Plan (ERRRP)

In June 2025, the GoE, together with UNHCR and UNDP, launched its first ever National Response Plan titled '**Egypt Refugee and Resilience Response Plan (ERRRP)**,' targeting approximately 2 million refugees, asylum seekers, and affected host communities.

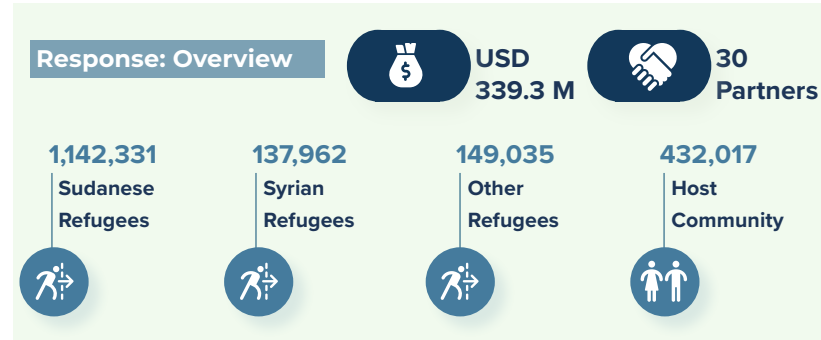
The ERRRP sets a harmonious and sustainable coordination mechanism, adopting a one refugee approach. Possessing a comprehensive and integrated plan for all nationalities allows for a consolidation of efforts to respond to both humanitarian and development challenges in a holistic and integrated manner. The Plan also aims to support the GoE to continue to offer protection to those in need, while providing lifesaving assistance, strengthening national systems, and reinforcing peaceful co-existence and self-reliance of refugees and affected host communities.

Despite the GoE's efforts and steadfast commitment to contribute to comprehensive protection and humanitarian aid, the strain on national already-scarce resources, and the increasing number of new arrivals, continue to place significant pressure on national institutional capacity to provide services and assistance to refugees, asylum seekers, and local communities, especially in urban areas. As of the end of November 2025, the ERRRP remains substantially underfunded with a gap of more than 70% (USD 237 million) out of the total funds required (USD 339 million). Underfunding limits the ability of the Government, UNHCR, and partners to provide essential assistance to the most vulnerable refugees and asylum seekers and to expand their inclusion in basic services.

## AT A GLANCE

### Country Planned Response

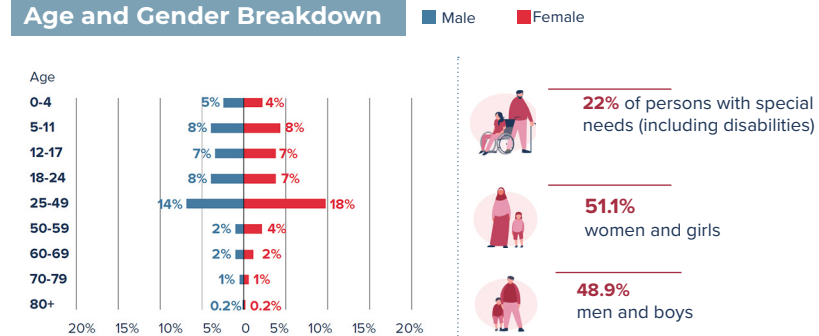
January-December 2024



### Population Planning Figures

Country	Refugees pre 15 April 2023	Population as of Dec 2024	Planned Population as of end 2025
Sudanese Refugee Population	60,779	602,702	1,142,331
Syrian Refugee Population	146,995	147,797	137,962
Other Refugee Population	85,846	126,513	149,035
Host Community			432,017
<b>Total Projected Population in Need</b>			<b>1,861,345</b>

### Age and Gender Breakdown



## 2.3. Joint Platform for Migrants and Refugees (JPMR)

The Joint Platform for Migrants and Refugees (JPMR) is a government and UN initiative that brings together government, UN and development partners, donors, and other stakeholders to strengthen support for refugees and migrants while building resilience in host communities.

The platform aims to improve service delivery and mobilize resources to achieve long term, sustainable development gains that promote social inclusion and cohesion.

## SECTION 3. 2023 PLEDGES: DESCRIPTION AND ACHIEVEMENTS

At the 2023 Global Refugee Forum (GRF), the GoE submitted **three pledges** focusing on education, health, peacebuilding, and climate action<sup>1</sup>:

### 3.1. Pledge1 - Enhance the inclusion of refugees and asylum seekers.

**Education** – Towards a shared responsibility to uphold the right to education and include refugee children in national education systems.

**Health** - Towards a shared responsibility to uphold the right to public health and include refugees in national health systems.

#### Description:

The aim is to build on previous pledges submitted by Egypt during the GRF in 2019 on enhancing access of refugees to national education and health systems, and with a view to ensure the mainstreaming of inclusion in national policies rather than creating parallel systems for migrants and refugees for the provision of services. In this context, the JPMR, described in section two, was established to coordinate and streamline the provision of basic services for the millions of migrants and refugees hosted in Egypt, with a particular focus on education, health and protection. The platform aims to operationalize the humanitarian development peace (HDP) nexus by bridging the gap between immediate humanitarian assistance and longer-term development efforts, while also strengthening host community resilience and promoting social cohesion.

**Expected outcome:** Enhanced quality and scope of access to public services, strengthened host community resilience, and promotion of social cohesion.




#### Achievements:

##### 3.1.1. The Joint Programme (JP):

The Joint UN Programme under the JPMR represents a major step forward in operationalizing the pledges to enhance the inclusion of refugees in health and education systems.

<sup>1</sup> [Pledges & Contributions | The Global Compact on Refugees | UNHCR](#)

Launched in September 2024, the EUR 12.2 million programme is co-chaired by the Ministry of Foreign Affairs and the United Nations Resident Coordinator's Office (UNRCO) and funded by the European Union (EU). It brings together four UN agencies – UNHCR, IOM, UNICEF, and WHO – to strengthen national capacity and promote equitable access to essential services for refugees, asylum seekers, and vulnerable migrants in Egypt.

 <b>Result 1: EDUCATION</b>	 <b>Result 2: HEALTH</b>	 <b>Result 3: PROTECTION</b>
<p><b>8 new classrooms</b> built</p> <p><b>102,800 students</b> benefited from education services</p> <p><b>230,000</b> copies of educational material in distribution</p> <p><b>992 individuals</b> benefited from trainings and capacity building</p>	<p><b>22 PHUs</b> supported</p> <p><b>12 hospitals</b> supported</p> <p><b>Medicines and 9,000 RDTs</b> procured and delivered</p> <p><b>830 Sudanese</b> refugee patients accessed 3,000 health services in Aswan</p> <p><b>1,729 health care</b> practitioners/ frontliners capacitated</p>	<p><b>45,000 individuals</b> benefited from protection services</p> <p><b>250 children</b> benefited from social cohesion events (host, refugees, migrants)</p> <p><b>Policy Advancements</b> on integrating refugees into Egypt's Universal Health Insurance System (UHIS)</p>

##### 3.1.2. PROSPECT:

The initiative seeks to enhance the inclusion of refugees and asylum seekers in national systems, particularly in education, health, and livelihoods. The PROSPECTS partnership, funded by the Dutch Ministry of Foreign Affairs and implemented by UNHCR, ILO, UNICEF, and the International Finance Corporation (IFC), is a multi-year effort designed to bridge the gap between humanitarian and development responses by supporting host governments in creating sustainable solutions for forcibly displaced populations.

In Egypt, PROSPECTS is actively addressing the challenges faced by refugees, focusing on improving access to education, employment, and social protection.

In 2024, the second phase of PROSPECTS was officially launched in Egypt, reinforcing the commitment of UN partners to improve the lives of both refugees and host communities. These efforts demonstrate how Egypt's GRF pledges are being translated into tangible, inclusive, and sustainable actions through the PROSPECTS partnership.

### 3.1.3. The Instant Network Schools (INS):

The Instant Network Schools (INS) project was launched by UNHCR and Vodafone Foundation in 2021, in partnership with the Ministry of Education and Technical Education (MoETE).

The INS aims to transform public preparatory schools into digital learning hubs for refugee and host community students in Egypt to promote educational equity and social cohesion. The initiative includes internet-connected classrooms, digital kits, and tailored training programs. Between 2021 and 2024, UNHCR in partnership with the MoETE and the General Authority for Educational Buildings (GAEB) refurbished 70 classrooms in public schools in Greater Cairo, Alexandria, and Damietta to serve as INS classrooms. The goal of the INS project is to equip 108 preparatory schools by end of 2025.

As part of the INS project's commitment to environmental sustainability and going green, solar panels were installed in 27 INS schools: 5 INS schools in Giza governorate and 22 INS schools in Sharqeya governorate. These solar panels will contribute to energy efficiency and harness the needed renewable energy to run the INS classrooms entirely.

This eco-conscious approach sets an exemplary model for the community. It also demonstrates the dedication of the INS project to creating a cleaner, more sustainable future for our students and the planet.

### 3.1.4. Ministry of Education and Technical Education (MoETE):

The MoETE has a dedicated division that facilitates the enrollment of refugees and migrants in national public schools. Every year the MoETE issues a ministerial decree that regulates the enrollment requirements.

More than 29,000 refugees and migrants have been enrolled in public schools between 2023 and 2025.

Additionally, MoETE held a set of extensive trainings and workshops to equip the staff with all the skills necessary to deal with refugee and migrant students. These trainings focused as well on equipping staff with skills for promoting social cohesion and combating negative sentiment towards migrants and refugees.



Fatma Hassan (15) from Sudan shone at the Instant Network Schools summer activities in 6th of October, part of the Vodafone Foundation – UNHCR programme. Recognized as a top performer, she received a certificate and a tablet for her dedication to building life skills.

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### 3.1.5. Ministry of Health and Population (MoHP):

The MoHP plays a pivotal role by implementing a comprehensive set of health policies and programs designed to strengthen prevention, ensure rapid and effective response, and provide inclusive healthcare services to refugees and migrants in Egypt without discrimination.

In light of the evolving regional and global dynamics that pose increasing challenges related to migration and asylum patterns, the Ministry works in close coordination with relevant national authorities, development partners, international, and UN organizations to reinforce the health system.

This includes enhancing contingency planning of health institutions at both central and field levels, building the capacity of medical and technical staff in areas such as epidemiological surveillance, emergency care, and psychological support, as well as strengthening monitoring and reporting systems to curb the spread of infectious and communicable diseases among the most vulnerable groups. Additionally, a series of capacity development programmes have been rolled out to enhance workforce efficiency and improve the quality of services provided to refugees and migrants without discrimination.

#### Health services:

A total of 32,437 refugee and migrant patients have benefited from the health services offered by the MoHP between 2023 and 2025, particularly with malaria and leishmaniasis treatments. Additionally, more than 45,000 cases received birth registrations and over 25,000 death certificates were issued. On the other hand, more than 370,024 doses of vaccinations were administered by MoHP for refugee and migrant children under 18 months. A total of 12,289 cases of infectious diseases were recorded among refugees and migrants as part of an active epidemiological surveillance system covering all governorates.

#### Capacity Development:

Between 2024 and 2025, a total of 460 non-Egyptians were trained in Cairo, Giza, and Alexandria on topics related to public health, infectious diseases, and immunization programs. The objective was to raise awareness on issues of mutual concern and familiarize participants with the roles of different stakeholders and optimal coordination mechanisms to achieve a physically and mentally healthy society. Trainees included the refugee and migrant communities from Sudan, Syria, Somalia, Ethiopia, Yemen, and Eritrea. In line with preventive efforts to curb the spread of tropical diseases, parasites, and vector-borne infections, 112 training courses were conducted between 2024 and 2025, benefiting 1,824 trainees. These programs targeted healthcare providers across governorates, focusing on surveillance and treatment protocols for malaria, filariasis, leishmaniasis, and schistosomiasis, as well as raising awareness among travelers to malaria-affected countries through Mobile Health Clinics nationwide.



Fatma Omar, who fled Sudan to Egypt in April 2024, brings her two-year-old son Bassel, who has hearing difficulties, to the Refuge Egypt clinic, a UNHCR partner, for medical care.

©UNHCR/Pedro Costa Gomes

### **3.1.6. Ministry of Local Development (MoLD):**

In line with the Egyptian government's commitment to the principles of comprehensive development and good local governance, MoLD is working to reinforce localization efforts, bridging the gap between humanitarian and developmental work. MoLD works closely with all actors to support the inclusion of refugees and migrants in sustainable development plans, transforming challenges into opportunities for economic and social growth, in line with Egypt's Vision 2030. A key aim for MoLD is to work with the UN, development partners and all relevant stakeholders to establish regulatory frameworks and implement programs that foster inclusion for refugees and migrants into local development plans and livelihood interventions.

#### **Related programs and projects include:**

#### **1. The Livelihoods and Economic Inclusion Pilot Project (2025-2027):**

Implemented in partnership with UNHCR and Plan International, this project aims to strengthen the institutional capacities of the MoLD and local government units, enabling them to provide more efficient and inclusive development services that respond to the needs of refugees and host communities, particularly in the areas of livelihoods and economic empowerment.

The project targets the training of more than 300 local government staff. In addition to supporting 500 beneficiaries, both refugees and Egyptians, through vocational training programs, it also aims to provide 400 grants for small projects to enhance employment and income opportunities.

The project is implemented in the Giza Governorate with subsequent expansion to Cairo and Alexandria.

#### **2. The Migration and Local Planning Project (in collaboration with UN-Habitat):**

The project aims to integrate migration dynamics into local planning by strengthening the capacity of local authorities to manage population mobility.

It addresses the impact of migration on public services, housing, and health, and works to link migration to spatial, social, and economic planning.

#### **3. The Upper Egypt Local Development Program:**

In cooperation with the World Bank, the project represents an integrated model for sustainable local economic development by supporting economic clusters and improving infrastructure and public services.

It is one of the most important government mechanisms that can be built upon to integrate refugees and migrants into the local economy by promoting decentralization and empowering governorates to lead development.

### 3.1.7. About the Cairo International Center for Conflict Resolution, Peacekeeping and Peacebuilding (CCCPA)

Founded in 1994, CCCPA is an Egyptian public agency, an African Union (AU) Center of Excellence in training, capacity building, and research, and the Arab world's leading civilian training center on issues of peace and security. It is a major voice of the Global South on a wide range of topics, including conflict prevention and resolution, peacekeeping, peacebuilding, peacemaking, preventing radicalization and extremism leading to terrorism, combating transnational threats, climate, peace and development, and the implementation of the women, peace, and security (WPS) and the youth, peace and security (YPS) agendas.

#### Areas of Work in relation to the GRF pledges

##### 1. Conflict Prevention, Peacemaking & Peacebuilding

The international community is shifting its attention towards conflict prevention that is not only operational but also structural in nature, focusing on addressing the root drivers of conflict, and creating the conditions for positive peace, long before early warning signs are observed.

CCCPA works towards building national, regional, and international capacities through the delivery of specialized and innovative training courses, including Peacebuilding and Sustaining Peace, Dialogue, Negotiation, and Mediation, Risk and Resilience Analysis, Conflict Analysis and Sensitivity, Analytical Techniques and Media and Conflict. Additionally, CCCPA convenes policy dialogues on conflict prevention, peacemaking and peacebuilding, including by actively contributing to policy debates at the UN and AU.

##### 2. Transnational Threats

CCCPA has developed its integrated training course on “Combating Human Trafficking and Smuggling of Migrants.” The five-day training developed by CCCPA, targets mid-career African civilian, military, and police personnel. It aims to strengthen the capacity of African professionals to address the challenges of human trafficking and smuggling of migrants, as well as to inform national legislation, strategies, and policies on the issue. To achieve its objectives, CCCPA applies a unique multi-dimensional approach to training by adopting the 3Ps + 1 paradigm enshrined in the United Nations Convention against Transnational Organized Crime.

The training covers the four pillars of prevention, protection, prosecution, and partnerships to combat both crimes, while also mainstreaming development, victim-centered and human-rights based approaches across the continuum of interventions addressing both crimes.

#### Women, Peace and Security (WPS)

CCCPA adopts a gender-sensitive approach in all its programs and activities, with the center of excellence at the forefront of regional efforts of building African and Arab capacities on issues of WPS. Through its training and convening activities, CCCPA contributes to mainstreaming gender across the continuum of peace interventions (conflict prevention and resolution, peacekeeping and peacebuilding), as well as preventing radicalization and extremism leading to terrorism and DDR; all while establishing a network of experts and practitioners with enhanced knowledge and skills relating to the WPS agenda.

CCCPA's integrated and multidimensional approach to training covers issues related to gender in conflict, the international and regional policy framework on WPS, integrating a gender perspective in peacemaking, peacekeeping and peacebuilding, gender analysis tools, and situational training exercise.



High Level Policy Dialogue on Displacement, Women, Peace, and Security Post-Conflict Reconstruction and Development (PCRD)

©UNHCR/Noha Khalifa

### 3.2. Pledge2 - Forced displacement, peacebuilding and post-conflict reconstruction and development.

#### Description:

Under this pledge, the GoE envisions the implementation of a program to build the capacities of African countries titled “Integrating Displacement Considerations in Post-conflict Reconstruction and Development (PCRD) Efforts for Sustaining Peace: Pathways to the Operationalization of the Humanitarian Development Peace Nexus (HDPN)”, to be carried out by the Cairo International Center for Conflict Resolution, Peacekeeping and Peacebuilding (CCCPA), with possible cooperation with the African Union Commission (AUC), the AUC PCRD Center, UNHCR, IOM, as well as the African Development Bank (AFDB). The first activity of the program will focus on the Horn of Africa that witnesses a serious influx of displaced peoples and refugees due to conflict, including those at risk of statelessness, instability, and climate related repercussions (more than 14.5 million displaced in 2022 and numbers are on the rise). The second activity will focus on the Sahel region engulfed by escalating conflict and the deteriorating security situation that drove the forcibly displaced population up to 4.1 million people in 2022 (1.1 million refugees and asylum seekers and 3.0 million internally displaced people).

#### The program aims to address:

- 1. The root causes** and the interconnected challenges that exacerbate displacement.
- 2. Inclusion mechanisms** for forcibly displaced persons and those at risk of statelessness in national policies, peace processes, and peace agreements, and how this translates to concrete inclusion activities at the community level.
- 3. African experiences and best practices** in addressing displacement and its implications on peacebuilding and PCRD efforts.

**4. African efforts toward integrating forcibly displaced**, including those at risk of statelessness, in policy and regulatory frameworks as well as their implementation.

**5. Regional and international coordination mechanisms** mechanisms that address displacement and emphasize the ‘burden sharing’ aspect to the challenge.

**6. Financing mechanisms** to support displaced persons, including those at risk of statelessness, host communities, and their origin communities upon return.

**7. The needs of most vulnerable groups** in displaced communities including women, children, and youth.

## Achievements

### I. September 2024:

A field training program titled “Breaking the Chains: Strengthening Comprehensive Responses to Combat Human Trafficking and Migrant Smuggling” in Juba, supported by the Swiss Government, in cooperation with the Ministries of Interior and Peacebuilding in South Sudan. The training was attended by 33 officials from entities concerned with combating the crimes of human trafficking and migrant smuggling, as well as those involved in issues of reconstruction and post-conflict development, including the Ministries of Foreign Affairs, Interior, Peacebuilding, Defense, Justice, Gender and Child Affairs, and Social Welfare.

### II. November 2024:

A panel discussion on “Activating the Women, Peace, and Security Pillar in Reconstruction Policy,” in cooperation with UNHCR and the African Union Center for Post-Conflict Reconstruction and Development, held in Cairo. The discussion was attended by 19 officials from the Ministries of Foreign Affairs, Interior, Defense, and Justice, who are involved in issues related to forced displacement and border management, as well as post-conflict reconstruction, from countries affected by conflict and displacement, including Somalia, Yemen, Djibouti, Lebanon, and Sudan.

Egyptian entities concerned with these topics also participated. Session speakers included UNHCR, the National Council for Women, the Kofi Annan International Peacekeeping Training Center, the Mediterranean Women Mediators Network, and the United Nations University.

### III. November 2024:

A training program on “Integrating Forced Displacement Considerations into Post-Conflict Reconstruction and Development Efforts in Africa and the Arab Region,” held in Cairo, in cooperation with UNHCR and the AU. The training was attended by 19 officials from the Ministries of Foreign Affairs, Interior, Defense, and Justice, who are involved in issues related to forced displacement and border management, as well as post-conflict reconstruction, from countries affected by conflict and displacement, including Somalia, Yemen, Djibouti, Lebanon, and Sudan. Egyptian entities concerned with these topics also participated.

### IV. December 2024:

A field training program in N'Djamena titled “Combating Cross-Border Threats in Contexts Affected by Forced Displacement,” organized in cooperation with the Ministries of Security and Migration, and Justice and Human Rights in Chad, with support from the Swiss Government. The training was attended by 35 officials from entities concerned with border management and addressing the repercussions of the conflict in Sudan on the worsening forced displacement in Chad (as one of the largest host countries for Sudanese displaced persons after Egypt), including the Ministries of Foreign Affairs, Security and Migration, Defense, Justice, Human Rights, Women and Child Affairs, Social Affairs, Solidarity, and Humanitarian Affairs. Representatives from the National Commission for the Reception and Reintegration of Refugees and Returnees (CNARR) and the National Commission for Combating Migrant Smuggling and Human Trafficking (CNLTP) also participated in the training.

### 3.3. Pledge3- Addressing the Impact of Climate Change on Displacement Toward Sustaining Peace in Africa.

#### Description:

The GoE envisions the implementation of a capacity building program titled “Displacement in Africa: From Immediate Responses to Durable Solutions”, to be carried out by the Cairo International Center for Conflict Resolution, Peacekeeping and Peacebuilding (CCCPA), with possible cooperation with CRSP partners such as UNHCR, IOM, and UNDP.

#### The proposed program aims to address

- 1. Pathways** toward advancing holistic responses **to climate-induced displacement.**
- 2. Pathways** to transition from crisis management to **durable solutions.**
- 3. The opportunities** and challenges to design and implement comprehensive and **sustainable responses** to climate induced displacement at the national and regional levels in Africa.
- 4. Lessons learned** and pitfalls in the design, implementation, and evaluation of programs and interventions to integrate and protect forcibly displaced persons, including those at risk of statelessness.
- 5. Regional and international mechanisms** to strengthen Africa’s efforts to address climate displacement.
- 6. Strategies for the integration of displaced persons,** including those at risk of statelessness, and host communities into peacebuilding processes in conflict-affected areas.
- 7. Adaptation plans** for climate-induced displacement.

#### Achievements:

##### I. March 2023:

A training program titled “Climate-Responsive Programming to Support Peace Sustainability,” organized in cooperation with the European Union in Cairo. The training was attended by 40 officials and experts representing the Ministries of Foreign Affairs, Environment, Peacebuilding, and Agriculture from eight African countries (Mozambique, South Sudan, Somalia, Kenya, Gabon, Sudan, Comoros, and Angola). The training included high-level representatives from the United Nations, the AU, and regional economic communities, in addition to experts from ministries of environment, foreign affairs, development, and agencies responsible for planning and climate risk forecasting. Representatives from EU missions and UNDP also participated, along with several specialists in climate risk analysis and resilience building.

##### II. September 2023:

A training program titled “Climate-Responsive Programming to Support Peace Sustainability,” organized in cooperation with the Department of Political Affairs, Peace and Security at the African Union Commission, with support from the European Union and Switzerland, held in Cairo. The training program was attended by 15 government officials from African countries affected by conflicts resulting from the impacts of climate change, as well as representatives from regional organizations and African regional economic communities (COMESA) as part of the African Peace and Security Architecture.

### **III. November 2024:**

Under the Egyptian Presidency of the Khartoum Process, Egypt, in cooperation with the Cairo Center, organized a regional workshop on “The Relationship Between Forced Displacement and Climate Change in Conflict-Affected Contexts,” held in Luxor. The workshop was organized in cooperation with Slovenia and the Slovenian Peace Operations Training Center (POTC). It was attended by officials from 39 European and African countries, in addition to representatives from the European Union, the AU (including the Post-Conflict Reconstruction and Development Center and the African Migration Observatory), and several regional and international organizations such as [the Intergovernmental Authority on Development \(IGAD\)](#), IOM, UNHCR, UNDP, and UNEP. Representatives from research centers also participated, including Adelphi, Centre for European Perspective, Consultative Group on International Agricultural Research (CGIAR), Friedrich Ebert Foundation, and the Mixed Migration Center.

### **IV. December 2024:**

A session titled “Challenges, Opportunities, and Durable Solutions for Forced Displacement Caused by Desertification in the Arab Region,” held in Riyadh in cooperation with IOM during the 16th Conference of the Parties (COP16) to the United Nations Convention to Combat Desertification. The session was attended by 29 government officials from Arab and African countries affected by desertification and its impact on worsening forced displacement, including Jordan, Lebanon, Iraq, Syria, Yemen, Somalia, Djibouti, Eritrea, Sudan, South Sudan, Chad, Morocco, and Mauritania.

### **V. December 2024:**

A training program on “Strengthening the Capacities of Congolese Personnel and National Institutions Working on Climate Adaptation Mechanisms and Addressing Their Impacts to Enhance the Effectiveness of Peacebuilding Efforts and Achieve Sustainable Peace,” held in Kinshasa with support from the European Union. The training program was attended by 24 Congolese officials from the Ministries of Foreign Affairs and Environment. The course was part of implementing the pillars of the Presidency Initiative of COP27 on Climate Change and Peace Sustainability (CRSP), as well as the conclusions of the fourth edition of the Aswan Forum, particularly regarding the need to align climate responses for peace sustainability in Africa with local government priorities to strengthen resilience and adaptation to climate change and address its impacts, especially forced displacement.

## SECTION 4. NEW PLEDGE - SUPPORTING THE ESTABLISHMENT OF A NATIONAL ASYLUM SYSTEM IN EGYPT IN LINE WITH INTERNATIONAL STANDARDS.

Egypt has continuously demonstrated its support, offering refuge to those fleeing conflict and persecution. The country hosts currently more than one million registered refugees and asylum seekers from 62 nationalities, in addition to millions of migrants. Egypt is the top host country of Sudanese fleeing the conflict in Sudan since the outbreak of the conflict in April 2023. Egypt adopts a welcoming “out-of-camp policy,” enabling refugees to choose where to settle, with the majority living in urban settings across major cities alongside host communities.

Sudanese nationals make up the largest group, followed by Syrians. Other significant populations include individuals from South Sudan, Eritrea, Ethiopia, Yemen, Somalia, and Iraq.

On 16 December 2024, Egypt took a prominent step enacting its first ever national Asylum Law and took the first step in establishment of a domestic asylum framework under the Government leadership. The GoE is committed to establishing a holistic national asylum system in line with international standards.

The new Egypt Asylum Law No. 164-2024 aims to expand access to rights including health, primary education, and the formal labour market. It also aims to accelerate the issuance of asylum documentation granting legal stay, overcoming existing barriers, and prioritizing the processing of vulnerable groups.

The enactment of the first asylum law affirms Egypt’s longstanding and steadfast commitment to international protection for refugees and asylum seekers in the region and at the global level. Despite the global economic challenges and the instability in several neighboring countries, Egypt is committed to advancing the establishment of the national asylum system.

Positive elements on the law enacted include access to health, primary education, a Convention Travel Document (CTD), and the prioritization of vulnerable groups in case processing.

Egypt’s steadfast commitment needs to be matched with expanded support from the international community in line with the GCR’s responsibility sharing principle to allow a successful transition through strengthened technical and infrastructure capacity.

### In terms of concrete steps that Egypt is planning to take moving forward:

**1. Egypt will promulgate the Asylum Law Executive Regulations.** The Executive Regulations were developed through an extensive consultation process at the national level and are in line with the 1951 Refugee Convention and OAU convention.

**2. Egypt will establish the National Permanent Refugee Committee (NPRC)** to lead on the transition and oversee the implementation of the national asylum system. The committee will include representatives from various national entities that provide services to refugees and asylum seekers and will lead on all the transition coordination and operationalization of the transition roadmap.

The GoE will work closely with UNHCR and all partners to strengthen the national asylum system, ensuring a gradual and smooth transition.

## SECTION 5. NEW PLEDGE - LIVELIHOODS AND ECONOMIC EMPOWERMENT.

Egypt currently hosts over one million refugees from 62 nationalities. The majority reside in urban settings, primarily in Cairo, Alexandria, Damietta, Aswan and other governorates. Pressure is increasing on urban areas that host a large number of refugees and asylum seekers, impacting available national resources and affecting infrastructure and local services for both refugee and host community members.

Despite the strain on national resources and economic hurdles, Egypt continues to adopt a welcoming “out-of-camp” policy and grant access to rights and services, particularly in health and education. Localization and empowering national and local response are all key fundamentals of the GCR to achieve a holistic response that accounts for the needs of refugees and impacted host communities.

The Egypt 2030 Vision has adopted “inclusive sustainable development” as a guiding principle for the country’s long-term vision, ensuring that refugees and asylum seekers are treated equally to Egyptians in line with the “leaving no one behind” principle.

Egypt is committed to continue to advance inclusion efforts adopting a holistic and localized response that encompasses empowering local actors, municipalities, refugees, and host community members in support of longer-term socio-economic inclusion.

The introduction of Egypt’s new Asylum Law (164-2024) presents a great opportunity to enhance livelihoods and the social protection framework for refugees and asylum seekers. The law is envisioned to provide a foundation for more structured asylum governance, potentially facilitating improved access to essential services, including access to the formal labor market and national social protection services once the law goes into implementation.

By embedding asylum policies within broader national social protection strategies, there is room to strengthen coordination between humanitarian and development actors, ensuring a more sustainable support modality to both refugees and host communities.

Favorable environments enable refugees and members of host communities to become potential workers, entrepreneurs, and employers, and make them more self-resilient to future shocks as well as to provide sustainable and cost-effective solutions. In line with the GCR principle of responsibility sharing, Egypt calls on international partners and key actors especially in the private sector to step up support in areas with high refugee concentration. Engagement with the private sector will allow the establishment of new businesses, industries, livelihoods skills, and the expansion of job opportunities for refugees and host communities.

### Expected outcomes:

Refugees and members of host communities will be reached through holistic and sustainable economic inclusion and broader social protection programming, resulting in:

- **Expanded access to essential services** (including health, education, and protection) through inclusive national social protection frameworks, reducing household vulnerability and providing the foundational stability necessary to pursue sustainable economic opportunities in local markets.
- **Increased participation in economic activities**, including enhanced formal self and wage employment, entrepreneurship, and decent work opportunities in refugee high-concentration areas, leading to self-reliance and long-term, sustainable local economic development.

## SECTION 6. NEW PLEDGE - STRENGTHENING MULTIDIMENSIONAL RESPONSES TO FORCED DISPLACEMENT AND ITS IMPLICATIONS ON SECURITY AND DEVELOPMENT WITHIN PEACEMAKING EFFORTS.

The year 2024-2025 has witnessed an unprecedented increase of forced displacement and refugee crisis globally, with the number of forcibly displaced persons doubling and reaching almost 123.2 million worldwide, representing a decade of year-on-year upward trend in the number of refugees and forcibly displaced persons. Despite this alarming surge, funding and support allocated to respond to forced displacement and its humanitarian implications continue to decrease, and responses to these crises remain uneven and inadequate.

The African continent and the Arab region are experiencing increasingly complex displacement patterns and rapidly growing numbers of refugees and displaced persons, making both regions the highest and the second highest concentration of displaced persons globally. Triggered by protracted conflicts, surging terrorism and severe climate shocks, forced displacement has shifted from a temporary survival strategy during crises toward a prolonged coping mechanism.

Moreover, the deliberate destruction of infrastructure as a tactic of war has further disrupted recovery efforts, triggering new waves of displacement and limiting the states' ability to restore stability even after peace agreements are reached.

Contrary to prevailing perceptions, 67 percent of refugees and displaced persons remain in neighboring states, with middle-income countries hosting more than 73 percent of the world's displaced population. This places immense pressure on already over-burdened host states amidst retreating burden and responsibility-sharing mechanisms, shrinking financial resources, and the escalation of tensions between host and displaced communities in conflict-affected settings.

Over the years, existing frameworks and traditional short-term responses to forced displacement have proven insufficient in addressing the scale and complexity of contemporary protracted crises. Fragmented responses that fail to address the root causes of crises, compounded with inadequate coordination among international, regional, and national actors limit the effectiveness of interventions, perpetuate the dependency on decreasing funding and hinder efforts to generate sustainable, nationally-owned solutions to forced displacement.

Despite growing recognition of the importance of nationally-led and participatory approaches, the translation of these principles into practice remains uneven across both Africa and the Arab region. This is largely due to limited national capacities, fragmented coordination, and the absence of coherent, development-oriented strategies that reflect the specificities of diverse displacement contexts and the priorities of host states and displaced persons.

# EGYPT BOOKLET

## GLOBAL REFUGEE FORUM (GRF) PROGRESS REVIEW 2025

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