

WHO-Egypt Flash Appeal

Sudan Emergency Response 2025

Issued in:

April 2025

Overview

The ongoing conflict in Sudan, which erupted in April 2023, has led to a rapidly escalating humanitarian situation, with widespread suffering on the ground. WHO Director General Tedros Adhanom Ghebreyesus has described the scale of the emergency as “shocking,”¹ and warned of its devastating impact on civilian infrastructure (including health facilities), calling on the international community to take urgent action.

More than 12 million people have been forced to flee the violence, in what has been described as the largest displacement crisis in the world.² Nine million people have been displaced internally, while another 3 million have sought refuge in neighbouring countries, including Chad, Egypt, Libya and South Sudan. Of these countries, Egypt has received the highest number of arrivals, at 1.2 million.

This WHO Flash Appeal provides a snapshot of the health emergency situation in Egypt due to the violence in Sudan, which remains ongoing in early 2025, and the subsequent influx of displaced people into Egypt across the country’s southern border.

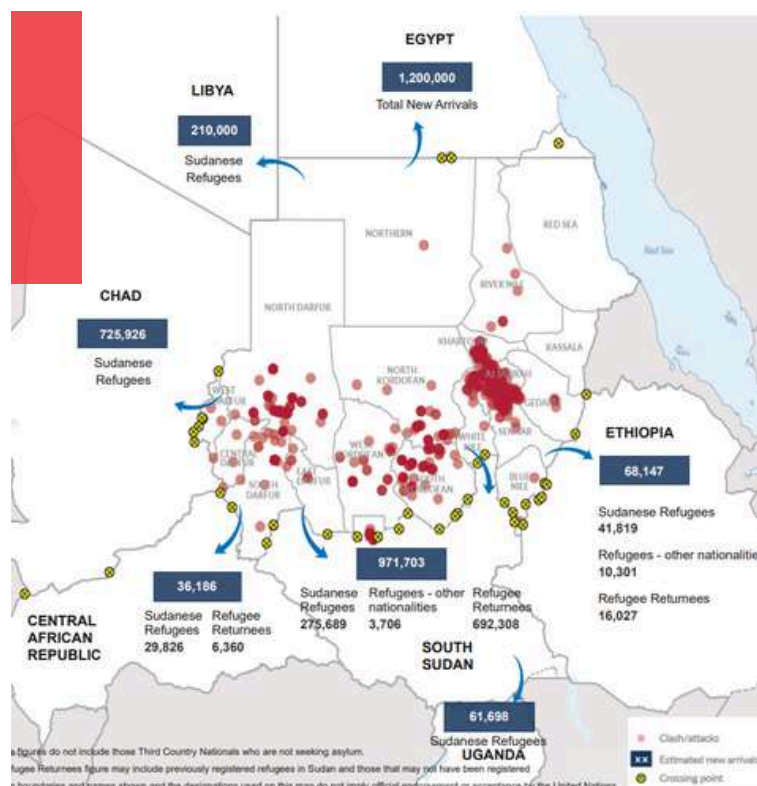


Fig. 1. UNHCR map of population movement in Sudan, UNHCR Sudan Emergency Weekly Update, 20 January 2025



28,700
deaths in Sudan
conflict, as of
November 2024



12.4 million
displaced people



8.8 million
Internally displaced
people



3.3 million
people displaced to
neighbouring countries



+2 million
malaria cases

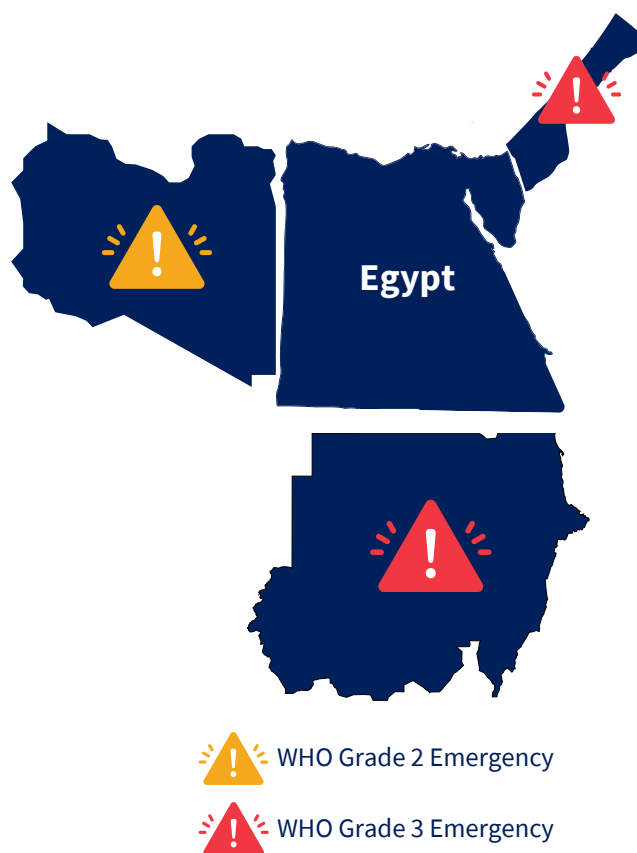


51,300
cholera cases in recent
outbreak
(1,359 deaths)

Country Context

Egypt is surrounded by three WHO emergency-graded countries: Libya (Grade 2 Emergency), Sudan (Grade 3 Emergency), and the occupied Palestinian territory (Grade 3 Emergency). This regional context places a significant burden on Egypt due to its pivotal role both as a humanitarian hub and as a host country for those forcibly displaced. In addition, Egypt is already facing significant economic challenges, including steep price rises and shortages in foreign currency, with repercussions on living standards and poverty rates.

Egypt is a populous low middle income country with high demand on the health system which affect its resilience to absorb the extra burden due to regional crises



In recent years, major health reform efforts have been implemented, including the launch of a new Universal Health Insurance (UHI) system. While the UHI initiative aims to improve access to healthcare, its implementation has raised healthcare costs for non-Egyptians, affecting refugee communities and potentially burdening new arrivals with high medical expenses.



107 million
Egypt's population



9 million
migrants in Egypt



894,462³
registered refugees
and asylum seekers



1.2 million
influx of Sudanese
nationals since April 2023



624,565³
registered Sudanese
refugees and asylum
seekers



550,000⁴
registered Sudanese
new arrivals

WHO Response

WHO Egypt's emergency response targets supporting the national healthcare system to accommodate the increased demand, with a focus on Aswan governorate, as most new arrivals cross into Egypt through the Qustol and Argeen points of entry in Aswan.

Coordination of the health response with key partners, as WHO Egypt co-leads the Health Working Group alongside UNHCR Egypt, ensuring effective service mapping and alignment of health response activities with national efforts. The response framework encompasses the Ministry of Health and Population (MOHP), national stakeholders, UN agencies – including IOM, UNICEF and UNFPA – as well as key NGOs such as SCI and MSF, among others, fostering a comprehensive and coordinated health response.

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As part of these efforts, WHO has conducted a series of six assessment missions in Aswan governorate since the onset of the Sudan conflict, including:

Interagency PSEA risk assessment mission, conducted with UNHCR and IOM, which evaluated protection risks across UN and humanitarian partners' spaces. Through assessments, interviews and focus group discussions, insights were gathered from staff, volunteers, CSOs, Sudanese leaders, and community members to enhance safeguarding measures and accountability.



Assessment of Qustol and Argeen points of entry to evaluate operational readiness and preparedness for a potential surge in Sudanese arrivals amid the escalating crisis. The assessment aimed at identifying key challenges and gaps in healthcare service delivery, ensuring an effective and coordinated response to emerging humanitarian needs.

Meeting with stakeholders at Aswan University hospital, Aswan specialized hospital, Aswan ophthalmology hospital, and Abu-Simbel international hospital to discuss the Healthcare Expenses Coverage Programme and highlight further development of collaborative efforts in serving the community of new Sudanese arrivals in Aswan.

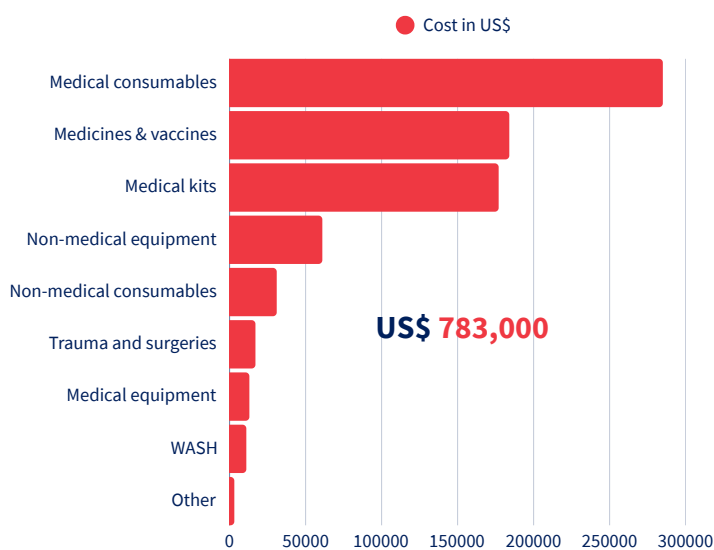


WASH-IPC joint assessment missions, in collaboration with UNICEF. The first two missions were conducted to identify the gaps at the healthcare facilities visited in terms of water, sanitation, medical waste management, hand hygiene, environmental cleaning, energy and environment, management, and workforce. The third mission was conducted to monitor and evaluate the WASH interventions implemented during the previous missions, assess the current WASH status in healthcare facilities, and provide the necessary support to address any gaps.



Procurement of essential needs for MOHP and replenishment of supplies

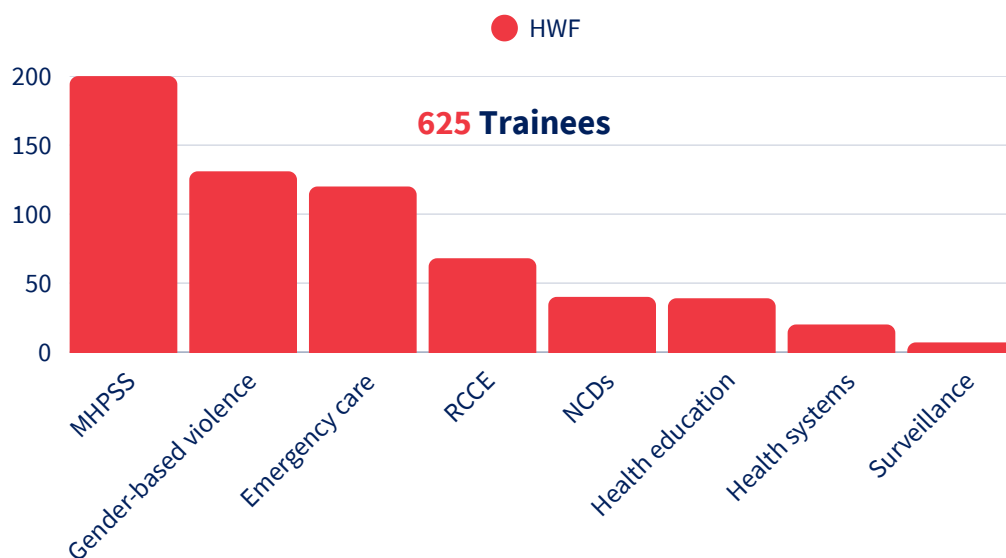
including medical equipment, medications and consumables, to strengthen healthcare service delivery in Aswan and across Egypt. This initiative aims to ensure the continuity of care for both forcibly displaced populations and host communities, addressing critical shortages and enhancing the resilience of the health system in response to growing demands.





Capacity-building of healthcare providers

(HCPs) from key national stakeholders, including MOHP's primary healthcare sector, the Egyptian Ambulance Organization, and the Egyptian Healthcare Authority, with a particular focus on Aswan as a marginalized governorate with a large community of Sudanese arrivals. The training aims to enhance the skills and preparedness of HCPs to effectively respond to emerging health needs, particularly in the context of the ongoing regional crisis.





The Healthcare Expenses Coverage Programme

is a flagship initiative launched by WHO Egypt to cover the expenses incurred for healthcare services provided to Sudanese patients in Aswan. The programme was launched in 2023, and after a brief hiatus, resumed in 2024.

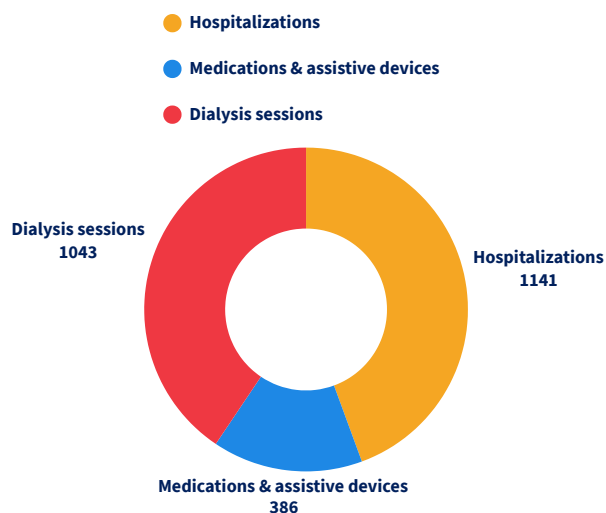
It has funded **2,570 health services** for **1,378 medical cases**. Services covered include surgical operations (such as trauma surgeries and hip replacements), medical conditions (such as ICU admissions), and the dispensing of monthly medications. Renal failure patients are specifically covered by the programme, with more than 1,200 dialysis sessions funded to date, and the number continues to rise.



2,570
healthcare services



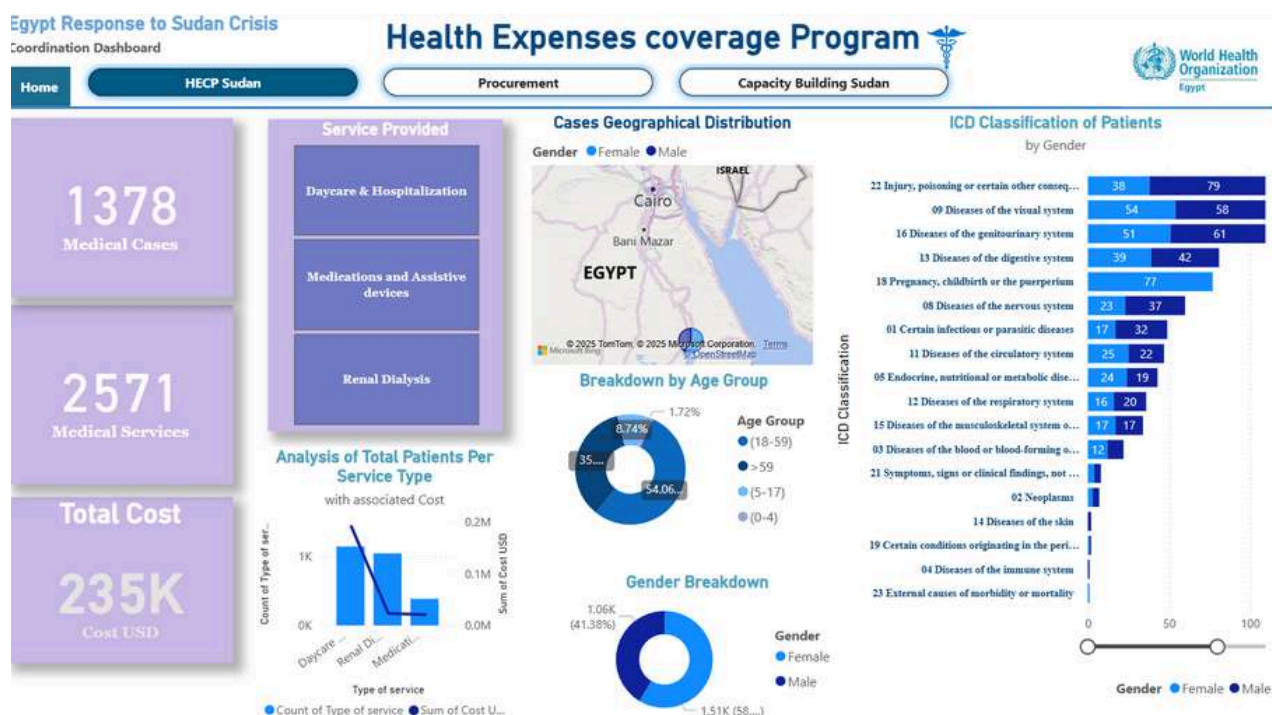
1,378
medical cases





Developing and consistently updating a real-time dashboard

to monitor and report on WHO's interventions across key areas, including procurement, capacity-building, and the Healthcare Expenses Coverage Programme. This dashboard provides up-to-date insights into the progress and impact of these initiatives, enhancing transparency and enabling timely decision-making for ongoing and future activities.



Click the link to visit the [Sudan response dashboard](#)

WHO Egypt Response Pillars:



Pillar 1: Coordination of health emergency response.

1.1 Coordinate the delivery of humanitarian health responses among members of health working group partners to ensure efficient resource utilization. This involves engaging in joint strategy development, planning, and advocacy on behalf of health partners.

1.2 Regularly updating the service mapping and coordinating with other UN agencies and key national and international stakeholders.

1.3 Conduct follow-up community outreach meetings to track the progress and impact of interventions on beneficiaries.

1.4 Regular data collection from health partners on implemented interventions, and showcasing the analysed data through a real-time dashboard for key stakeholders and potential donors.



Pillar 2: Developing healthcare workforce capacities to effectively respond to emergencies

2.1 Enhancing capacities through workshops and training courses covering essential emergency, mental health and psychosocial support, noncommunicable diseases and surveillance.

2.2 Enhancing risk communication and community engagement.



Pillar 3: Enhancing Egypt's healthcare system response to meet the need for lifesaving and chronic conditions while ensuring continuity of essential services

3.1 Evaluating and responding to both acute and chronic health needs of beneficiaries through the WHO Healthcare Expenses Coverage Programme.

3.2 Ensuring the replenishment of necessary medications, medical equipment and consumables including for most vulnerable groups such as women, children, and survivors of violence.



Pillar 4: Respond to gender-based violence and prevent and respond to sexual exploitation, abuse and harassment

4.1 Enhance the capacity of frontline workers, health service providers and volunteers by providing comprehensive training on the prevention of sexual exploitation and abuse (PSEA).

4.2 Empower medical service providers through specialized training on provision of first-line support and clinical management of rape (CMR) for GBV survivors.

4.3 Foster strong partnerships and collaboration with UN agencies to ensure a coordinated and comprehensive approach to PSEA awareness and reporting in emergency response efforts.



Pillar 5: Strengthen disease surveillance and outbreak control measures

5.1 Strengthening disease surveillance and ensuring preparedness for early detection, response and reporting of health events, particularly at points of entry and high-risk areas.

5.2 Ensuring the availability of necessary laboratory services and quality assured diagnostics.

5.3 Ensuring the readiness of Rapid Response Teams to promptly investigate alerts of public health events.

5.4 Enhancing vaccination coverage and providing additional doses for evacuation purposes to safeguard vulnerable populations against vaccine-preventable diseases.

5.5 Strengthening activities related to vector control.

5.6 Upskilling healthcare workers' capacity for Antimicrobial Resistance Surveillance data analysis.

WHO Egypt funding requirements for 2025

1.5 million Sudanese have arrived in Egypt as of December 2024 since the beginning of the conflict in April 2023. Figures are expected to increase exponentially with the ongoing hostilities straining the healthcare system.

WHO Egypt is appealing for a total of

US\$ 18,355,000

categorized as follows:



US\$ 18,000,000
Health



US\$ 200,000
WASH



US\$ 70,000
Food security



US\$ 55,000
Nutrition



US\$ 30,000
Protection

Statement of Acknowledgement

WHO Egypt extends its sincere gratitude to the **Government of Egypt** for its steadfast commitment and leadership in addressing the needs of Sudanese new arrivals since the onset of the conflict. Egypt's response has played a central role in providing life-saving assistance, including access to essential healthcare, despite the mounting pressures on national systems.

WHO Egypt also warmly acknowledges the support of the **European Union** to the **Joint Platform for Refugees and Migrants**, which has enabled the timely implementation of the activities outlined in this appeal. The EU's contribution has been vital in scaling up WHO's response and strengthening collective efforts to ensure continuity of care and dignity for forcibly displaced populations. This support reflects a strong partnership built on shared values of solidarity and humanitarian responsibility.



For enquiries, please contact:

Emergencies Programme Lead:

Omar Abouelata

abouelatao@who.int

Emergency Officer:

Karim Abuzied

abuziedk@who.int

Communications Officer:

Yasmine Aly

Aliya@who.int

**For more information about
WHO in Egypt and its response
to the Sudan crisis:**

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**World Health
Organization**

Egypt