

Country – capital	Arab Republic of Egypt – Cairo <sup>1</sup>
Population	Egyptian 99.7%, other 0.3% (2006 est.). Total population 109.5 million (est. 2023). <sup>2</sup>
Geography	Northern Africa, bordering the Mediterranean Sea, between Libya and the Gaza Strip, and the Red Sea north of Sudan, and includes the Asian Sinai Peninsula. <sup>3</sup>
Languages	Arabic (official), English, and French widely understood by educated classes. <sup>4</sup>
Writing system	Arabic <sup>5</sup>
Education and literacy	73.1 % is literate, females much lower than males (67.4% resp. 78.8% est. 2021). <sup>6</sup> Egypt has an extensive education system that outstrips all others in the Middle East and North Africa, and where even tertiary education is free. The compulsory primary education program follows kindergarten at age 4. Primary school begins at age six and takes 6 years, preparatory school another 3. During this introductory phase pupils may enrol at state, religious or private schools by choice. Secondary education has three streams: general (3 years), technical (5 years) and vocational. Technical secondary schools are organized around industrial, commercial or agricultural themes. Both technical and general schooling are conduits to tertiary education. Parallel to the public education system runs the Al Azhar system. <sup>7</sup>
Religions	Muslim (predominantly Sunni) 90%, Christian (majority Coptic Orthodox, others incl. Armenian Apostolic, Catholic, Maronite, Orthodox, and Anglican) 10%. <sup>8</sup>
Conflict history and overview	Inspired by the 2010 Tunisian revolution, Egyptian opposition groups led demonstrations and labor strikes countrywide, ousting President Hosni Mubarak. Muslim Brotherhood candidate Muhammad Mursi won the 2012 presidential election but was removed from power. In May 2014 former defense minister Al-Sisi was elected president. Constitutional amendments extended his term in office through 2024 and possibly through 2030. <sup>9</sup> He has legally increased his powers since 2021. <sup>10</sup> Executions and torture take place in military operations in the Sinai against ISIS. <sup>11</sup>
Humanitarian situation	Life expectancy at birth: 74.7 yrs (male/female). Population below poverty line: 32.5 % (2017 est). <sup>12</sup> A rapidly growing population (the largest in the Arab world), limited arable land, and dependence on the Nile all continue to overtax resources and stress society. Approx. 95% of the population lives within 20 km of the Nile River delta. <sup>13</sup> Egypt has become an increasingly important transit and destination country for economic migrants and asylum seekers (Palestinians, East Africans, South Asians, Iraqis and Syrians). Cairo has one of the largest refugee populations in the world. <sup>14</sup>
Human rights situation	Reports of unlawful, arbitrary/extrajudicial killings by (gov.) agents and terrorist groups; enforced disappearance by state security; torture and cruel, inhuman, or degrading treatment by government; harsh and life-threatening prison conditions; enforced disappearances; political prisoners; severe repression of critics and media; gender-based and LGBTI-targeting violence etc. Impunity of most abuses. Attacks by terrorist organizations (e.g. ISIS-Sinai Prov.) resulted in unlawful killings, including in North Sinai. Terrorist groups conducted deadly attacks on government, civilian, and security targets, and abducted civilians in North Sinai. Incidents of societal violence against Coptic Christians. <sup>15</sup>
Situation of women FGM/C – early marriages	Maternal mortality rate is 17 per 100,000 live births (2020). <sup>16</sup> FGM/C was legally banned in 2008 <sup>17</sup> , but no convictions. Widespread support for continuing the practice. 78.4% of girls aged 0-14, and 86% of women age 15-49 have undergone FGM. <sup>18</sup> The minimum age of marriage is 18 years, but 17% of girls in Egypt are married before their 18th birthday and 2% are married before the age of 15. <sup>19</sup>
Situation of LGBTI	Consensual same-sex sexual activity is not explicitly criminalised but on grounds of “combating prostitution”, LGBTI persons are targeted. There are numerous cases of violence by authorities, online entrapment, raiding of known gay hangouts, seizing and checking of mobiles etc. Violence and sexual assault on persons in custody. <sup>20</sup>
Asylum / migration / (IDPs)	Malta: Egypt arrivals: 35 in 2022, 11 in 2023 Q1. <sup>21</sup> In 2021 128 persons lodged asylum applications in Malta, in 2022 19. <sup>22</sup>

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- <sup>1</sup> <https://www.cia.gov/the-world-factbook/countries/egypt>
  - <sup>2</sup> <https://www.cia.gov/the-world-factbook/countries/egypt>
  - <sup>3</sup> <https://www.cia.gov/the-world-factbook/countries/egypt>
  - <sup>4</sup> <https://www.cia.gov/the-world-factbook/countries/egypt>
  - <sup>5</sup> <https://www.cia.gov/the-world-factbook/countries/egypt>
  - <sup>6</sup> <https://www.cia.gov/the-world-factbook/countries/egypt>
  - <sup>7</sup> <https://www.scholaro.com/db/Countries/Egypt/Education-System>
  - <sup>8</sup> <https://www.cia.gov/the-world-factbook/countries/egypt>
  - <sup>9</sup> <https://www.cia.gov/the-world-factbook/countries/egypt>
  - <sup>10</sup> <https://www.state.gov/reports/2022-country-reports-on-human-rights-practices/egypt/>
  - <sup>11</sup> <https://www.hrw.org/world-report/2023/country-chapters/egypt>
  - <sup>12</sup> <https://www.cia.gov/the-world-factbook/countries/egypt>
  - <sup>13</sup> <https://www.cia.gov/the-world-factbook/countries/egypt>
  - <sup>14</sup> <https://www.cia.gov/the-world-factbook/countries/egypt>
  - <sup>15</sup> <https://www.state.gov/reports/2022-country-reports-on-human-rights-practices/egypt/>
  - <sup>16</sup> <https://www.cia.gov/the-world-factbook/countries/egypt>
  - <sup>17</sup> <https://egypt.unfpa.org/en/node/22544>
  - <sup>18</sup> <https://www.28toomany.org/country/egypt/>, <https://egypt.unfpa.org/en/node/22544>
  - <sup>19</sup> <https://data.unicef.org/resources/fgm-country-profiles/>; <https://www.girlsnotbrides.org/learning-resources/child-marriage-atlas/regions-and-countries/egypt/>
  - <sup>20</sup> <https://database.ilga.org/criminalisation-consensual-same-sex-sexual-acts>
  - <sup>21</sup> <https://www.unhcr.org/mt/figures-at-a-glance>
  - <sup>21</sup> <https://www.unhcr.org/refugee-statistics/download/?url=0iecXW>

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