

EN

E-001636/2025

Answer given by Ms Lahbib

on behalf of the European Commission

(14.7.2025)

As a key humanitarian and development aid donor, the Commission is acutely aware that conflicts – particularly the war in Sudan – have generated significant protection needs for displaced populations, many of whom have fled to neighbouring countries, notably Egypt and Libya. The North Africa region remains a destination and transit point for migrants, refugees and asylum seekers, including unaccompanied children. As a result of their fragile legal status, displaced people are exposed to insecurity, threats, harassment, sexual and gender-based violence, and forced recruitment.

The United Nations High Commissioner for Refugees (UNHCR) receives EU funding across the whole North Africa region, with a primary focus on protection and refugee status determination. However, the agency faces alarming levels of underfunding in the region. In 2024, the United States alone accounted for approximately 38% of its funding in the region, with contributions reaching as high as 47% in the case of Egypt.

The Commission remains strongly committed to supporting UNHCR in North Africa to ensure the continued delivery of critical life-saving assistance, such as food and water, sanitation and hygiene, as well as to strengthen the protection and resilience of vulnerable people. This includes efforts to enhance access to basic education and health services. The Commission will continue to support people in need in Egypt and Libya, working through UNHCR and other mandated United Nations agencies. In parallel, the Commission will also support the reinforcement of national asylum systems by providing technical assistance, capacity-building, and targeted training to local stakeholders.