

Completed by: Diakonia

Date completed: 4TH of September 2026

Forum: ACT Egypt Forum

Type of emergency: Conflict related displacement

Date of emergency (if rapid onset): Ongoing since October 2023

1. The nature of the emergency
The ongoing conflict in Gaza since October 2023 has resulted in the displacement of Palestinians into Egypt, including wounded people, women, children, elderly. North Sinai remains a primary area of humanitarian response, with approximately 350 displaced Palestinian families currently seeking shelter in Al-Arish and Bir al-Abd. The humanitarian situation is further compounded by depleted household savings, loss of income, overcrowded communal accommodation, and limited access to essential services. A recent rapid needs assessment identified urgent and time-critical gaps in access to essential medication, food, and protection and hygiene support for women and girls.
2. The impact and scale of the emergency <i>(please include your source of information with links if possible)</i>
Based on the Forum's available assessment, this is a medium-scale localized humanitarian emergency, appropriate for consideration under the Rapid Response Fund. The response is focused exclusively on North Sinai Governorate, particularly Al-Arish and Bir al-Abd. Displaced families are living in communal accommodation, including youth centers, as well as in other housing arrangements. Some communal accommodation are severely overcrowded, with an average of approximately three families sharing one unit. These conditions are contributing to significant protection and privacy concerns. Approximately 350 displaced Palestinian families are currently monitored in North Sinai. The wider rapid assessment, conducted by Diakonia's partners, the Ismailia Diocesan Development Office (IDDO) – Egypt, covered 620 displaced Palestinian families across North Sinai and Greater Cairo. Priority is given to households with injured or chronically ill members, female-headed households, households with high dependency ratios, elderly people, and persons with disabilities. Displaced families have experienced depletion of household savings and a reduced ability to meet their basic needs. People living with chronic illnesses face interrupted access to essential medication and medical care, while families report having to make difficult choices between purchasing food and accessing treatment. Overcrowded communal accommodation has further increased protection and privacy risks, particularly for women and girls. Food insecurity is also significant, with families unable to consistently afford adequate food to meet their needs. In the short term, interrupted access to essential medication poses risks of acute deterioration in health; inadequate access to food undermines household food security; and overcrowded living conditions increase protection risks for women and girls. Without continued assistance, longer-term consequences include further deterioration of health, increased reliance on negative coping

strategies, prolonged food insecurity, and worsening protection vulnerabilities. Broader outstanding needs identified through the assessment include shelter/rent, livelihoods, household NFIs, and education.

3. Local and national capacity

Families have increasingly exhausted their savings and face difficult choices between purchasing food and accessing necessary medical treatment. Community networks and local actors are also supporting outreach and beneficiary identification, helping to identify and reach households with the most urgent needs.

The North Sinai Governorate General Secretariat coordinates with response actors to identify priority needs and update family data. Egyptian security authorities coordinate and supervise field operations. Local community leaders and youth volunteers support outreach and beneficiary verification. Catholic Church premises in Al-Arish are being used for the safe storage and preparation of humanitarian kits.

Access to North Sinai remains highly restricted. Diakonia, through its partner the Ismailia Diocesan Development Office (IDDO), is the only ACT members and among the few organizations with access to the area due to restrictions imposed by the Egyptian security authorities. Al-Arish is a border area with Gaza, where access is tightly controlled by the Egyptian security and military authorities, resulting in only a limited number of organizations being able to operate in the area. IDDO is among these few actors, facilitated by its established presence through a church and a centre in Al-Arish. Diakonia maintains continuous coordination with the North Sinai Governorate and Egyptian security authorities.

A specific activated national emergency contingency plan for North Sinai is not currently available, and humanitarian actors are coordinating outside of a structured emergency response plan. This further underscores the importance of existing local access, coordination mechanisms, and established operational relationships for the delivery of timely assistance.

IDDO is the implementing partner of Diakonia and is among the few actors with access to North Sinai and the operational capacity to provide humanitarian assistance in the area. Recent assistance has included food baskets, blankets, mattresses, and winter clothing. Coordination is also taking place with the Egyptian Red Crescent for the distribution of medical supplies, as well as with local health and protection actors on GBV-prevention measures. The response is taking place in a context marked by the complete absence of UNHCR and UNRWA and a weak government response plan, further highlighting the critical role of existing local actors in addressing the identified humanitarian needs.

4. Key needs and gaps

The main humanitarian needs identified in North Sinai, particularly Al-Arish and Bir al-Abd, are in health, food security and protection. The most urgent gap is access to essential and life-saving medication for people with conflict-related injuries and chronic illnesses. Food insecurity is also significant, as many families have exhausted their savings and struggle to meet basic food needs. Women and girls living in overcrowded communal accommodation face heightened protection, privacy and dignity risks and require protection and personal hygiene items. Additional needs include shelter/rent, livelihoods, household NFIs and education.

IDDO, with coordination from local authorities and other humanitarian actors, has been providing assistance to displaced Palestinian families in North Sinai. Food baskets have been distributed in Al-Arish and Bir al-Abd, while blankets, mattresses and winter clothing have been provided,

particularly to families living in youth centers. Coordination with the Egyptian Red Crescent supports medical supply distribution, while local health and protection actors support health and GBV-prevention activities. Community leaders and youth volunteers also support outreach and beneficiary verification. Despite these interventions, significant gaps remain in continuous medication, regular food assistance and protection support.

The main information gap being faced is the fluid and changing size and vulnerability profile of the displaced population in North Sinai, with needs growing every day.

Please indicate whether you are considering:

	Indicate your intention with an X below
Rapid Response Fund (<i>intended for small and medium scale emergencies</i>)	x
Appeal (<i>intended for large scale emergencies</i>)	

5. Forum Capacity and members intention to respond

ACT Member	Geographical focus	Sectors of expertise and experience
Diakonia (IDDO)	North Sinai	Health, food, protection/gender

6. Potential responses

The proposed response will focus on the three urgent gaps identified in North Sinai: health, food security and protection. The health component will provide essential and life-saving medication to vulnerable people with conflict-related injuries and chronic illnesses, based on verified medical needs. The food-security component will provide regular food baskets to vulnerable displaced families. The protection component will provide specialized protection and personal hygiene kits to women and girls living in overcrowded accommodation, using a female-led field team to support safe and dignified access.

The health and protection response will target 100 to 150 highly vulnerable families.

Diakonia and its partners would require RRF funding to procure and distribute essential medication, food and protection/hygiene items. Operational support would also be needed to maintain humanitarian access to Al-Arish and Bir al-Abd, including coordination with local authorities and security actors. Continued field monitoring, beneficiary verification and needs assessment would be required as the displaced population and their needs remain ever changing. Diakonia would also require continued coordination with relevant humanitarian actors, including the Egyptian Red Crescent and local health and protection actors.