

# Egypt's population increases by 1 million in 8 months to reach 101 million

Author:

Sun, 2020-10-04 21:13

CAIRO: The announcement that Egypt's population is now 101 million means that it has increased by 1 million in less than 8 months. The Population Clock of the Central Agency for Public Mobilization and Statistics said it passed the 100 million mark on Feb. 11, 2020.

Amr Hassan, the former reporter of the National Population Council, said that the population is a major concern for the Egyptian government, as it puts great pressure on natural resources and is a burden on the state budget.

He said that under the National Population and Development Strategy's goals (2015-2030), Egypt's population was supposed to reach 94 million by 2020, but it has grown far faster.

"If the National Population Strategy had been implemented, Egypt's population would have reached 110 million in 2030, but current expectations indicate that the population will reach 119 million by then. It raises the warning signs that the state should make a concerted effort," Hassan said.

Prime Minister Mostafa Madbouly, during a speech at the opening of the Egyptian-Japanese University, made a comparison between Egypt and Germany. In 1995, Egypt's population was 62 million, while Germany had a population of 83 million people. Now Egypt's population has passed 100 million, while the population of Germany remains at 83 million.

According to Hassan, this comparison made by the prime minister sheds light on the burden on the Egyptian government and highlights the weakness of educational and health services when compared with developed countries.

According to the Central Statistical Organization, in 1955 Italy's population reached 48 million, England's population was 51 million and Egypt's was 23.5 million.

In the past 65 years, Italy's population has increased by 12 million to 60 million and England's population by 16 million to 67 million. During the same period, Egypt's population has increased by 77 million.

Hassan said that this means that the population rate increase in Egypt is seven times that of Italy and Germany and five times greater than England, meaning a far greater load on the state budget and a far greater demand for hospitals, schools, roads, bridges, transportation and services.



Main category:

[Middle-East](#)

Tags:

[EGYPT POPULATION](#)

Egypt vaccines ready for clinical trials  
Gift of bread: Egypt air bridge helps flood-hit Sudan

---

## [Turkey's new military deployment in Idlib puts spotlight on Syria](#)

Author:

Sat, 2020-10-03 22:50

Despite claims that the South Caucasus is the new flashpoint for Turkey and Russia, the recent military reinforcements in Syria hint that the balance in the province is still fragile and could provoke a regional crisis.

On Friday, a Turkish military convoy, with more than 25 armored vehicles and trucks carrying logistical materials, entered northwestern Idlib province to reinforce Turkish military points in the area.

How Turkey's new military build-up will be considered by Moscow or whether it will lead to new concessions between the two countries, which back opposing sides in the Syrian civil war, are still a source of concern.

Navvar Saban, a military analyst at the Omran Center for Strategic Studies in Istanbul, thinks that this military reinforcement is likely to disturb Russia because the Kremlin expects Turkey to reduce its military presence in Syria, mainly in the area south of the M4 highway, which runs parallel to the Turkish-Syrian border.

“Russia began allowing the regime to mobilize some of its forces in the area south of the M4. There will not be a huge military confrontation, but there may be some artillery attacks from the regime on where Turkish forces are located,” he told Arab News.

The number of Turkish military vehicles in the area is estimated to have exceeded 9,750 in the past seven months.

Russia refused to conduct new joint patrols as long as there is instability in the area.

The latest joint military drill of Turkish and Russian troops recently was held in Idlib on Sept. 21.

Russian Foreign Minister Sergey Lavrov announced on Sept. 22 that the two countries will resume joint patrols in northern Syria when the situation stabilizes after the attacks by Hay'at Tahrir Al-Sham (HTS) targeting the Russian Hmeimim airbase.

Kyle Orton, a UK-based researcher on Syria, said Turkey's military build-up in Idlib is intended as a message that Ankara will not surrender the remaining parts of the province.

“Turkey gave up more territory than expected and certainly more than many of its Syrian proxies were hoping. But the Turkish government does have a real red line: it needs a buffer area to keep the terrorists and refugees out of Turkey,” he said.

He sees this as a response from Turkey to recent signals from Damascus and Iran that another offensive is coming in Idlib, indicating that Ankara will resist any such action.

“The Russians are unlikely to be too alarmed by Turkey's actions; Moscow is content to leave Turkey with Idlib, but Moscow cannot control the Assad and Iranian system, which has as its ultimate goal the reconquest of every inch of Syria,” he said.

In the meantime, the Turkish Presidency submitted a motion to parliament on Oct. 1 to extend its authority to launch cross-border military operations in northern Iraq and Syria for another year until Oct. 30, 2021. The motion underlines Turkey's continued “security responsibilities” in northern Syria, east of the Euphrates River and in the Idlib province.

According to Ruwan Al-Rejoleh, an independent analyst in Washington, DC, there has always been talk about a “new operation” in Idlib, the last rebel bastion.

"All players have been anticipating it, preparing for it and promoting it every once in a while but the pandemic conditions postponed it. Russia has an interest in controlling all the M4 highway," Al-Rejoleh said.

The regime forces and Russian fighter jets have recently increased their attacks on HTS and other terror groups in Idlib province with heavy bombardments.

The March agreement that was brokered between Russia and Turkey required the establishment of a security corridor around M4 highway, cleansing the area from radical elements as well as conducting joint patrols to serve a buffer between regime forces and rebels.

During a video conference on Saturday, President Recep Tayyip Erdogan said that "Turkey will wipe out terror zones in Syria if others fail to keep their promise."

According to Al-Rejoleh, the problem remains in the defining who are the terrorist groups between Turkey and Russia.

"While Turkey sees the existence of armed separate entities operating in northeastern Syria, such as People's Protection Units (YPG) which are connected to the outlawed Kurdistan Workers' Party (PKK), as the immediate threat to its borders, Russia's priority is to get rid of HTS, an internationally designated terrorist group, and other Syrian opposition armed groups that have connections to Turkey either through direct support or through Turkish intelligence channels," she said.

On the Syrian front, Al-Rejoleh added, Turkey and Russia are likely to come to an agreement about possible concessions, where Turkey will "again" give up control of certain parts of Idlib in return for pressure-relief in other conflict zones or potentially the elimination of certain figures affiliated with PKK and a guarantee to prevent any new wave of refugees.



Main category:

[Middle-East](#)

Tags:

[Turkey](#)

[Idlib](#)

[Syria](#)

Turkey's military reinforcement signals changes in Idlib's fragile calm  
Turkey detains Kurdish opposition members over terrorism links

---

## [Gift of bread: Egypt air bridge helps flood-hit Sudan](#)

Author:

Sat, 2020-10-03 22:29

CAIRO: A third Egyptian plane has transported bread-making facilities to Sudan as part of a relief air bridge following recent devastating floods in the country.

"Under the directives of President Abdel Fattah El-Sisi, Egypt has sent a third flight of field bread production lines to the brothers in Sudan," an Egyptian military spokesman said via his official Facebook account.

The three flights landed in Khartoum on Tuesday and Thursday carrying 10 automatic bakeries.

Egyptian military attache Brig. Harb Ahmed Al-Shazali and Egyptian Embassy staff welcomed the planes.

Last Tuesday, the Ministry of Industry and Trade received the first batch of bread production units provided by the Egyptian army, which will be installed in southern areas of the capital.

The 10 bakeries will produce more than 1.5 million loaves of bread per day.

The production lines will ease the effects of flooding and the resulting shortage of bread in many areas of Sudan.

Field bakeries will be located in areas severely affected by the recent floods.

Since the beginning of the crisis, Egypt has sent several aid planes to support the Sudanese people.

"This matter comes within the framework of the cooperation and support that Egypt has been providing to address some of the challenges facing the transitional government in his country," Sudan's Trade Minister, Madani Abbas Madani, said after the first bakeries arrived.

He said that this support was desperately needed amid a mounting bread crisis.

"There are many strategic efforts to address this issue in its various aspects, whether it is related to the provision of wheat or the development of the bread industry, especially since more than 80 percent of the bakeries in the country are traditional and not mechanized," Madani said.

Egypt's Ambassador to Sudan, Hossam Issa, said that the air bridge is part of the Egyptian efforts to support the Sudanese people during the transitional phase in the country.

The Egyptian government is helping Sudan move toward a new phase of development, stability, prosperity and security, he said.

Egypt has sent 14 aircraft carrying medicines and medical equipment to help Sudan deal with the flood crisis.



Main category:

[Middle-East](#)

Tags:

[Egypt Air](#)

[Sudan](#)

[Sudan floods](#)

Egypt on high alert following Sudan floods Boost for Egypt-Sudan trade relations

---

## [Jordan's King Abdullah accepts resignation of Prime Minister Omar Al-Razzaz](#)

Sat, 2020-10-03 22:31

AMMAN: Jordan's King Abdullah on Saturday accepted the resignation of Prime Minister Omar al Razzaz but asked him to stay on as a caretaker premier until he designates a successor to oversee parliamentary elections on Nov. 10, state media said.

The monarch dissolved parliament last Sunday at the end of its four-year term in a move that under constitutional rules meant the government had to resign within a week.

A new government will pave the way for the November vote, as the country grapples with the rapid spread of COVID-19 infections over the last month that the last government had been widely criticised for.

King Abdullah appointed Prime Minister Omar al Razzaz in the summer of 2018 to defuse the biggest protests in years over tax increases sought by the International Monetary Fund (IMF) to reduce Jordan's large public debt.

The monarch hopes a wider shake-up and a new assembly could ease popular disenchantment over economic hardships worsened by the blow of COVID-19 and limits on civil and political freedoms under emergency laws.

Jordan's economy is expected to shrink by 6% this year as it tackles its worst economic crisis in many years, with unemployment and poverty aggravated by the pandemic.



Main category:

[Middle-East](#)

Tags:

[Jordan](#)

[Jordan's King Abdullah II](#)

[Prime Minister Omar Al-Razzaz](#)

Jordan's monarch dissolves parliament in preparation for November election  
Hundreds of schools in Jordan return to online classes as COVID-19 cases rise



---

# Beirut reconstruction making little progress

Author:

Zaynab Khojji

ID:

1601752309128027200

Sat, 2020-10-03 22:32

BEIRUT: Reconstruction is progressing slowly in the area of Beirut devastated by the Aug. 4 explosion in the Lebanese capital's port.

"The first obstacle hindering restoration work is financial. All private and official international bodies have no confidence in the Lebanese government so they've refrained from giving aid," Jad Thabet, head of the Engineers Syndicate, told Arab News.

"Any plan assumes the existence of a government, and the international campaign we saw when the explosion happened has withdrawn due to the political situation in Lebanon. Unfortunately there's total chaos," he said, adding that winter will make matters worse.

"There are people who'll be displaced and buildings that will collapse. The rain will wash away stones and soil, and block roads and sewers. There will be subsequent disasters for the people."

The explosion of some 2,750 tons of ammonium nitrate that had been stored in Beirut's port since 2013 killed 195 people, injured about 6,500, displaced 300,000 and caused billions of dollars' worth of damage.

Thabet said he intends to travel to Paris in an attempt to urge UNESCO to provide assistance to Lebanon, but he does not expect much in light of his country's political situation.

Many residents in Beirut are complaining about the lack of repairs to their damaged homes, and have no faith in the government.

There is also a lack of progress on the judicial front, with Judge Fadi Sawan saying he "hasn't yet received any report from any security service that was carrying out investigations in the explosion site."

Among the teams that helped with the investigations were a French one and an American one.

An FBI spokesman said earlier this week that it has not been concluded that the explosion was a deliberate crime. The FBI is helping with the investigations at the Lebanese government's request, he added.

Sawan issued two arrest warrants last Thursday against the Russian captain and the owner of the ship that transported the ammonium nitrate to Beirut. The state prosecutor has asked Interpol to arrest them.

Ali Hinnawi, head of the Public Safety Committee at the Engineers Syndicate, said: "People need to return to their homes, livelihoods, work and interests. Is there anyone who listens and is aware of the importance of this?"

He added: "Social conditions are getting more difficult and winter is approaching. People are kept away from their homes due to negligence and mismanagement."



Main category:

[Middle-East](#)

Tags:

[Lebanon](#)

[Beirut](#)

Lebanon pins economic hopes on talks with Israel  
Lebanon announces local lockdowns as COVID-19 cases rise