

# Libya Operational Update

31 December 2024

Awareness sessions on communication channels continue at the Serraj waiting area. Over 600 individuals have been informed on how to connect with UNHCR and partners, with easy-access QR codesv.

📱 UNHCR/ Alkelani Elmetili



**79,019**

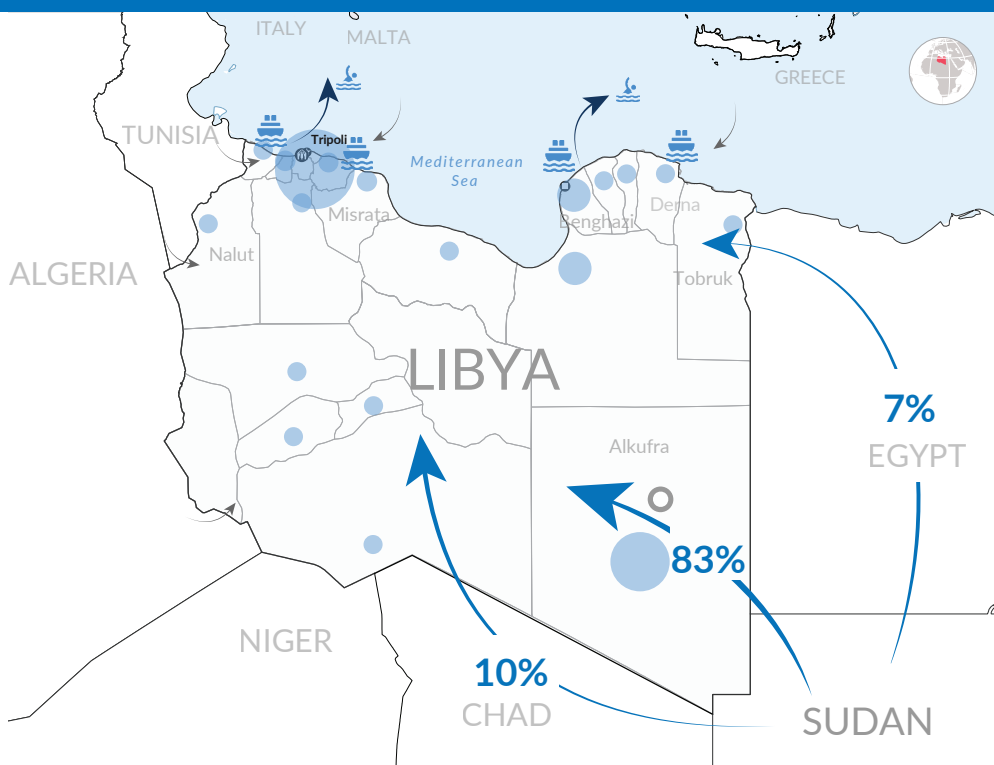
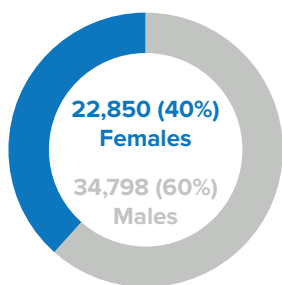
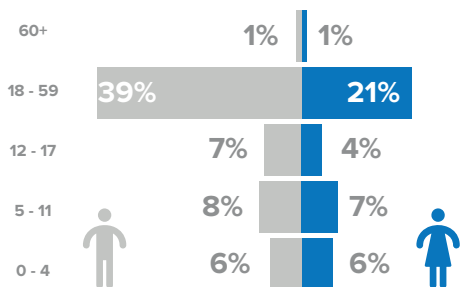
refugees registered with  
UNHCR in Tripoli.

**73%** are Sudanese refugees  
**11%** are Syrian refugees  
**10%** are Eritrean refugees  
**6%** other refugees<sup>2</sup>

## Sudanese Refugees

**57,648**

Sudanese registered with UNHCR Libya,  
including those who arrived before the  
onset of the crisis.



Country office



Field Office



National Capital



UNHCR Presence



Mantika Boundary



Sudanese Population



Arrival of Sudanese



Onward movement of Sudanese



Rescue at sea / Interception Expulsion



Expulsion

1. The arrival trends of Sudanese refugees are based on surveys conducted with Sudanese refugee households in 2024.  
2. UNHCR registers refugees from 9 nationalities: Eritrea, Ethiopia, Iraq, Palestine, Somalia, South Sudan, Sudan, Syria, Yemen.

## HIGHLIGHTS

### In 2024:

- 12,700 refugees and internally displaced people received cash assistance
- 1,500 refugees and asylum-seekers departed from Libya through durable solutions and complementary pathways
- Over 45,000 refugees reached through protection outreach activities
- 798 Best Interest Assessments (BIAs) for vulnerable refugee children, including unaccompanied and separated children
- 79,186 calls received by UNHCR's call centre
- 15,977 refugees have received tailored protection services
- 23,431 medical consultations provided to refugees
- 16 clinics in Tripoli, Benghazi and Alkufra received critical medical supplies
- 13 Quick Impact Projects completed including rehabilitation of schools and hospitals

### Sudan response (in 2024)

- 6,254 Sudanese refugees received cash assistance
- Durable solutions found for 727 Sudanese refugees and asylum-seekers
- 5,904 Sudanese refugees underwent in-depth protection needs assessments
- Protection surveys have been undertaken with 14,785 Sudanese refugees upon registration with UNHCR to assess the protection incidents faced on route and assess current protection needs
- 16,322 newly arrived Sudanese refugees have been reached by phone to identify their needs
- 10,899 Sudanese refugees received individual case management assistance including psychosocial assistance, child protection services, and support to survivors of violence
- 584 Best Interest Assessments (BIAs) for vulnerable Sudanese refugee children, including unaccompanied and separated children, were completed
- 44,681 Sudanese refugees received non-food items



### PROTECTION

- By the end of 2024, over 210,000 Sudanese refugees were estimated to have arrived in Libya following the outbreak of the war in Sudan. Authorities in Alkufra issued 125,020 health certificates to Sudanese refugees and estimate that approximately 173,000 Sudanese have arrived in Libya through Alkufra alone. Despite these estimates, irregular entry points, vast remote borders with Chad, Egypt, and Sudan, and onward movements to coastal cities make it challenging to determine exact numbers.
- Libya remains a key transit point for refugees and migrants. In 2024, increased maritime monitoring by Libyan Coast Guard contributed to a rise in interceptions and rescues at sea, with 21,762 reported between January and December, compared to 16,670 during the same period in 2023. On the other hand, arrivals in Italy have decreased, with 41,484 migrants and refugees having arrived in Italy from Libya between January and December 2024, compared to 52,034 during the same period in 2023.
- At the end of December, 5,046 individuals were being detained in detention centres of whom 19% (941) are potentially in need of international protection. Throughout 2024, UNHCR advocated for the release of 260 individuals, resulting in 131 individuals being released, including 37 in December, by the Directorate for Combatting Illegal Migration (DCIM). UNHCR continues to work closely with the Libyan authorities, including DCIM, for the release of all refugees and asylum-seekers, especially the most vulnerable.



## REGISTRATION

- By the end of December, UNHCR had registered 57,648 Sudanese refugees, including 38,003 who arrived after the Sudan conflict began in April 2023. Registration enables access to essential services, including health care, CRIs, and tailored protection support, which includes the identification of the most-at-risk cases for psychosocial assistance, temporary care arrangements, cash-based support, and in some cases, durable solutions.
- UNHCR also supports registration of Sudanese refugees by authorities in Alkufra, which allows for freedom of movement in eastern Libya. On 8 December, UNHCR delivered four Rubb halls to Alkufra DC which will facilitate registration activities by authorities for Sudanese refugees coming into Alkufra, their main entry point into Libya.



## PROTECTION ASSESSMENTS

- To understand and address refugee needs, UNHCR conducted 5,915 protection surveys in 2024, reaching around 14,785 Sudanese refugees. These surveys shed light on their journeys, family situations, and aspirations for the future. 83% had fled directly from Sudan, with 10% arriving through Chad, and 7% through Egypt. The perilous routes to safety remain a critical concern—70% of refugees reported protection incidents during their journey, including smuggling (31%), assault (23%), and trafficking (16%). Only 10% managed to reach Libya without facing such dangers. 43% of those surveyed were women.
- The survey results showed that access to education remains a challenge for many children. Almost half of the refugees surveyed were children of whom 92% have no access to school, mainly due to lack of documentation required or financial means to enrol in schools. In 2024, UNHCR has conducted a total of 8,199 surveys reaching over 20,400 refugees of all nationalities.



## COMMUNICATION AND AWARENESS

- Efforts to enhance communication with communities included [sessions](#) for newly arrived refugees at the Registration Centre. These sessions provided information on feedback mechanisms, hotlines, and online platforms, empowering refugees to access assistance and voice concerns effectively.
- During December, UNHCR provided phone counselling to 161 newly arrived Sudanese refugees in eastern Libya, with 16,322 newly arrived Sudanese refugees being reached throughout the year. Refugee committees play a vital role in facilitating outreach, by sharing lists of newly arrived individuals, helping UNHCR assess needs and intentions to provide immediate and longer-term assistance.



UNHCR staff conducting an outreach field visit to engage with newly arrived Sudanese refugees.

 UNHCR/ Alkelani Elmetili



## TAILORED PROTECTION ASSISTANCE

- UNHCR's protection desk at the registration centre continues to serve as a lifeline for refugees identified as highly vulnerable or at heightened risk. In December, 358 refugees, including 198 Sudanese refugees, received support. This assistance ranges from cash, medical care, psychosocial support, clothing, core relief items, and specialized care arrangements.
- During December 1,547 refugees received critical support at the Community Day Centre (CDC), focusing on medical assistance, protection needs assessments, individualized case management, and child-friendly activities in the dedicated Child-Friendly Space. Although the CDC primarily operates by appointment, 44 walk-in cases with urgent protection concerns were admitted. Of these, 26 individuals received immediate assistance, while the remaining cases were scheduled for follow-up appointments to ensure they receive the necessary support. Sudanese refugees continue to make up most of the beneficiaries at the CDC, with 1245 individuals supported during the month.



## CHILD PROTECTION

- UNHCR conducted 87 Best Interest Assessments (BIAs) for vulnerable refugee children during December who were referred to temporary care, and families caring for them were provided with core relief items or cash assistance. UNHCR has conducted a total of 798 BIAs in 2024, including unaccompanied and separated children, out of which 584 are Sudanese.
- In 2024, 11,392 refugee children have participated in activities at the Child-Friendly Space at UNHCR's main office and the CDC, providing them with a safe and supportive environment. Of these, 11,053 children participated in unstructured play and recreational sessions and 339 children attended structured sessions twice a week, where they engaged in activities designed to promote their development, well-being, and learning, contributing to their emotional and social resilience. These sessions are part of UNHCR's efforts to provide psychosocial support and create a sense of normalcy for refugee children.

## DURABLE SOLUTIONS

One of UNHCR's key objectives is finding durable solutions for very vulnerable refugees. [On 12 December, UNHCR evacuated 149 refugees through the ETM](#) from Libya to Rwanda, where refugees are temporarily hosted before they are resettled to countries offering resettlement places. After three weeks of meticulous preparation, in which Libyan authorities were notified and approval secured, the evacuation process involved verifying and conducting medical examinations for potential evacuees, including those in detention, arranging travel documents and exit visas, assembling evacuation packages (travel bags, clothing kits, and refreshments), briefing refugees on airport procedures, the ETM in Rwanda, and accompanying them throughout the process. The evacuees were 77 men (36 single adults, 20 family members, and seven unaccompanied children) and 72 women (59 female heads of household, 24 single adults, and three unaccompanied children). The group comprised refugees from Eritrea (54), Sudan (51), South Sudan (17), Ethiopia (15), and Somalia (12). Throughout 2024, 564 vulnerable refugees were evacuated to Rwanda on five flights in March, June, September, and December, offering them the possibility of a new life in one of the countries providing resettlement, and far from the persecution they have endured.



Refugees at Mitiga Airport in Tripoli prepare for evacuation from Libya to Rwanda through the Emergency Transit Mechanism (ETM).

## FIELD OPERATIONS



### Shelter and Non-Food Items (NFI)

- **UNHCR's distribution of core relief items** across different parts of Libya in December provided essential support to over 16,000 refugees and asylum-seekers living in challenging conditions, including 12,704 Sudanese refugees. These distributions—including blankets, mattresses, hygiene kits, solar lamps, and kitchen supplies—play a crucial role in helping families displaced by war and conflict meet their basic needs, preserve their dignity, and adapt to harsh environments as they try to rebuild their lives. In 2024, 77,029 individuals, including 44,681 Sudanese refugees, have received non-food items.
- Following heavy rainfall, on 9 December, 200 **affected families in Tarhuna (93km southeast of Tripoli) received urgent non-food items** (NFIs). UNHCR's partner LibAid delivered blankets, mattresses, jerrycans, kitchen sets, hygiene kits (HKs), baby kits, plastic sheets, solar lamps, and sleeping bags.



### QUICK IMPACT PROJECTS (QIPS)

To strengthen public services, UNHCR and partner ACTED completed 13 Quick Impact Projects (QIPs) in 2024, benefitting over 65,000 people across eight municipalities (Abusliem, Benghazi, Brak Al-Shati, Janzour, Shahat, Tajoura, Tawergha, and Wadi Etba). Projects included rehabilitating seven medical facilities, three schools, two sports facilities, and one children's playground. In December, together with partner ACTED, UNHCR completed six projects across the country, further enhancing access to essential services in health, education and water, sanitation, and hygiene (WASH) facilities.



### Cash-Based Intervention (CBI)

- UNHCR's cash-based interventions offer crucial financial aid to some of those most at risk, reaching 7,807 refugees (including 6,254 Sudanese) since the start of the year. Of this, 3,065 refugees (including 2,751 Sudanese refugees) were reached during December. The amount received is based on family size and is calculated for two months and paid in one single transaction. Criteria include homeless individuals seeking immediate shelter, survivors of severe violations, those with life-threatening medical conditions, victims of severe accidents, pregnant women or single mothers, and individuals released from detention.



UNHCR, in partnership with NRC and Cesvi, is distributing cash vouchers to help the most vulnerable Sudanese refugees meet urgent needs.

UNHCR/ Alkelani Elmetili



Donors and partners of the Sudanese Refugee Response Plan in Libya came together on 11 December to reflect on the results of 2024 and hear plans for 2025 in a meeting co-chaired by DSRSG (RC/HC) Aeneas Chuma and UNHCR's Chief of Mission to Libya, Aseer Al-Madaien. 📷 UNHCR



## Coordination

- UNHCR leads the Inter-Agency Response for the Regional Refugee Response Plan. In Libya, the response is coordinated through an inter-agency task force structure, including seven thematic task forces (Protection, Shelter & NFI, Food Security, WASH, Health & Nutrition, Education, and Access). An Information Management (IM) Task Force supports data collection and management.
- **On 19 December, a high-level UN delegation, including UNHCR and key UN agencies, visited Alkufra** to strengthen humanitarian support for Sudanese refugees in eastern Libya. Led by UNSMIL's Stephanie Koury and Deputy Special Representative to the Secretary General Aeneas Chuma, the mission reviewed progress under the UNHCR-led Sudanese Refugee Response Plan. The delegation met with Libyan authorities and Sudanese refugees to understand their needs.

## UNHCR PARTNERS

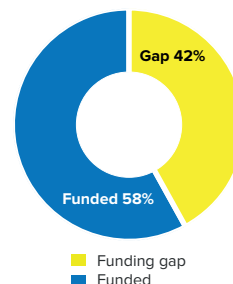


## FUNDING INFORMATION

UNHCR requested for the operation in Libya, UNHCR is grateful for the crucial and generous contributions from its donors, who have provided both earmarked and flexible funding to support its operations in Libya, including in response to the Sudan situation.

**USD 67.5 million**

UNHCR requested for the operation in Libya, including the Sudan refugee response



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**LINKS:** [UNHCR Global Focus](#) | [UNHCR Libya Facebook](#) | [UNHCR Libya X](#) | [UNHCR Data Portal](#) | [UNHCR Libya website](#) |