



UNHCR
The UN Refugee Agency

Libya

Operational Update

28 February 2025

Khadra, a 29-year-old Somali refugee and mother of three, was among 136 refugees evacuated from Libya to Italy, offering her a chance to rebuild her life in safety.

UNHCR/ Ziyad Alhamadi



85,930

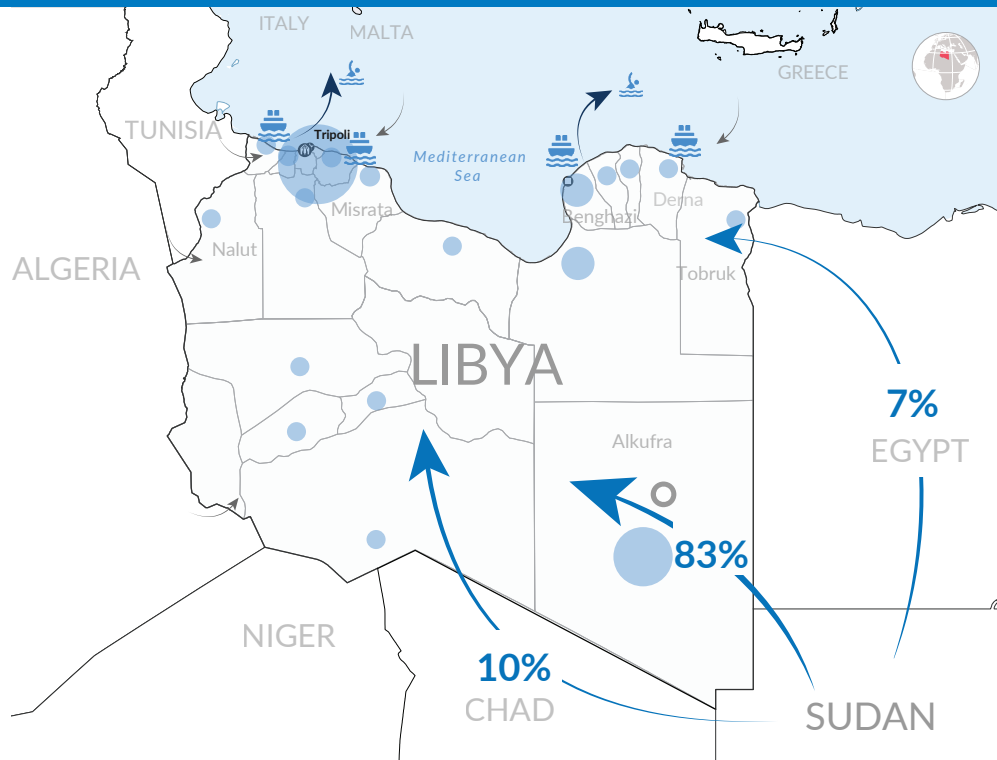
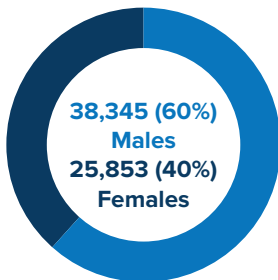
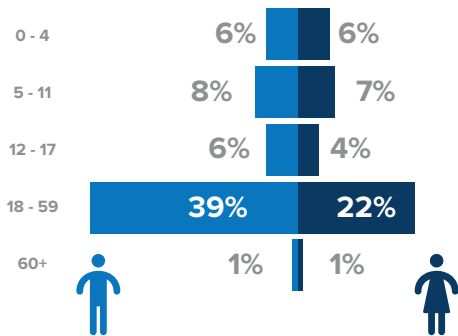
refugees registered with
UNHCR in Tripoli.

75% are Sudanese refugees
10% are Syrian refugees
9% are Eritrean refugees
6% other refugees²

Sudanese Refugees

64,198

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 2025.
2. UNHCR registers refugees from 9 nationalities: Eritrea, Ethiopia, Iraq, Palestine, Somalia, South Sudan, Sudan, Syria, Yemen.

HIGHLIGHTS

Overall	Sudanese refugees	Indicator
85,930	64,198	Refugees registered at UNHCR's registration centre in Tripoli
2,402	1,767	Refugees who received tailored protection services
141		Refugees relocated from detention centres to the urban setting
1,533	597	People rescued at sea
136	67	Refugees who departed Libya safely on durable solutions
14,252	8,359	Refugees and host communities who received core relief items and hygiene kits
5,518	3,539	Medical consultations provided (including in primary health in the urban settings, mental health, and at detention centres and disembarkation points)
1,592	1,199	Refugees who received cash or vouchers



PROTECTION

- It is estimated that over 240,000 Sudanese refugees have arrived in Libya following the outbreak of the war in Sudan. In Alkufra, 140,500 health certificates were issued to Sudanese refugees and authorities estimate that approximately 198,000 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. Increased maritime monitoring by the Libyan Coast Guard contributed to a rise in interceptions and rescues at sea. In February 2025, 1,806 people were intercepted or rescued at sea in 22 operations, compared to 1,104 in the same period of 2024 in 12 operations. Arrivals in Italy have also increased, with 5,576 migrants and refugees arriving in Italy from Libya by end of February, compared to 3,232 during the same period last year. Out of all sea arrivals in Italy during January and February 2025, 94% have embarked from Libya.
- Since the start of 2025, UNHCR and partners conducted 67 visits to detention centres (DCs) to monitor the overall conditions and identify people who are in need of international protection as well as needs for humanitarian assistance. UNHCR and partner IRC provided core relief items (CRIs) to 2,353 individuals and provided 356 medical consultations in detention. These visits are part of our ongoing commitment to address urgent humanitarian needs within detention facilities, where individuals often lack essential supplies and face harsh conditions. At the end of February, 5,046 individuals were detained of whom 13% (648) are potentially in need of international protection.



Refugees smile as they board a bus after their release from Tajoura detention centre, following UNHCR advocacy. They received urgent medical care and essential assistance to support their recovery.

UNHCR/ Luqman Al Zaha

- On 10 February, **UNHCR welcomed** the relocation of 24 refugee women and children from Abusliem detention centre and on 24 and 25 February, 39 refugees were relocated from Tajoura DC. Upon their release, all refugees were registered with UNHCR, and received emergency assistance including medical support, blankets, clothes and personal care items. Some refugees also received temporary shelter through our dedicated caregivers. As of end of February, 141 men, women, and children were relocated from detention following UNHCR's advocacy. UNHCR continues to work closely with the Libyan authorities, including the Directorate for Combatting Illegal Migration (DCIM), for the release of all refugees and asylum-seekers, especially the most vulnerable.



REGISTRATION

- By the end of February, UNHCR had registered 85,930 refugees (including 64,198 Sudanese refugees). Registration enables access to essential services, including health assistance, 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 has been supporting the authorities in Alkufra to register Sudanese refugees, which allows for freedom of movement in eastern Libya and access to public services. However, the authorities have suspended registration since mid-January. In response, a temporary registration mechanism has been established in collaboration with the Libyan Red Crescent to issue health certificates to newly arrived refugees, allowing them to access basic services and move onwards to coastal cities in the northeast of the country. In anticipation of the suspension being lifted at the end of Ramadan, UNHCR provided materials and consumables to the authorities in the East to support the registration process.

📷 UNHCR/ Haifa Elghwel



PROTECTION ASSESSMENTS

- To better understand and address refugee needs, UNHCR conducted 401 protection surveys this month, reaching refugees from Eritrea and South Sudan, as well as 394 Sudanese refugee families. These surveys provided insight into their journeys, family situations, and future aspirations. Of the Sudanese surveyed, 90% fled directly from Sudan, while 10% arrived through Chad. The journey to safety remains dangerous, with 65% of refugees reporting protection incidents, including smuggling (23%), assault (31%), and trafficking (11%). Only 23% managed to reach Libya without encountering such risks. 46% of those surveyed were women.
- Access to education remains a significant challenge, particularly for children. Almost half of the refugees surveyed were children, and 35% of school-aged children have no access to school—primarily due to a lack of required documentation or financial barriers. 65% of those surveyed said they came to Tripoli to access services and/or livelihood opportunities, and 18% said they feel safer than in other locations. Since the start of 2025, UNHCR has conducted 884 protection surveys, reaching over 2,200 refugees, including 2,160 Sudanese refugees.



COMMUNICATION AND AWARENESS

- Efforts to enhance communication with communities included 17 information sessions at the registration centre in February, attended by over 600 refugees of various nationalities. These sessions covered available services, reporting fraud and misconduct, feedback mechanisms, hotlines, and online platforms, empowering refugees to access assistance and voice concerns effectively.



TAILORED PROTECTION ASSISTANCE

- UNHCR's protection desk at the Registration Centre remains a vital support mechanism for some of the most at-risk refugees. In February, 414 refugees, including 228 Sudanese, received assistance ranging from cash, medical care, psychosocial support, clothing, core relief items, and specialized care arrangements.
- The Community Day Centre (CDC) provided support to 1,521 refugees in February, focusing on medical assistance, protection needs assessments, case management, and child-friendly activities. While most services operate by appointment, 35 urgent walk-in cases were admitted, with 13 individuals receiving immediate assistance and the remaining scheduled for follow-ups. Sudanese refugees remain the majority of beneficiaries, with 1,221 individuals assisted during the month.



CHILD PROTECTION

- 85 Best Interest Assessments (BIAs) were conducted for vulnerable refugee children in February, including 62 Sudanese children. Depending on their needs, children were referred to specialized services such as temporary care, while families caring for them received core relief items or cash assistance.
- At UNHCR's Child-Friendly Spaces, 531 refugee children participated in activities fostering a safe and supportive environment. 486 children engaged in unstructured play and recreational sessions, while 45 attended structured sessions twice a week, designed to enhance their development, well-being, and social resilience. These initiatives aim to provide psychosocial support and restore a sense of normalcy.



DURABLE SOLUTIONS

- A key priority for UNHCR is securing durable solutions for vulnerable refugees. On 11 February, **136 refugees were evacuated** on a humanitarian flight to Italy—the first of the year—facilitated by the Governments of Libya and Italy, UNHCR, and partners.
- Following weeks of preparation, and following the approval by the Libyan authorities, the process involved verifying and conducting medical examinations for 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, and accompanying them throughout the process. The evacuees included 32 men, 38 women, and 65 children from Sudan, Eritrea, Somalia, Ethiopia, South Sudan, and Yemen.



Safa, 32, a mother of five from Sudan, spent three years fleeing war before finding safety. On 11 February, she and her children were among 136 refugees evacuated to Italy on a humanitarian flight, securing a chance for a better future. Now, she hopes her children can receive the education they deserve a future where they can study, thrive, and build their own dreams.

FIELD OPERATIONS



Shelter and Non-Food Items (NFI)

- In February, UNHCR provided **core relief items to over 7,500 refugees and asylum-seekers** across Libya, including 5,000 Sudanese refugees. These distributions—comprising blankets, mattresses, hygiene kits, baby supplies, clothing, solar lamps, and kitchen sets—offer essential support to families living in difficult conditions. By addressing basic needs, these items help preserve dignity and enable displaced families to adapt to harsh environments as they work to rebuild their lives.
- In late January, authorities in Al-Wahat freed over 250 individuals, mostly from Eritrea and Ethiopia, who had been held captive at a smuggling site. Reports indicated that many survivors were in critical condition due to torture and malnutrition. In response, on 4 February, UNHCR distributed blankets, mattresses, and hygiene kits to 259 individuals at Ganfouda detention centre.



Community support projects

- In February, UNHCR's partner ACTED conducted 12 focus group discussions (FGDs) in Benghazi—7 with Sudanese refugees and 5 with the host community—to identify priority areas for support, particularly in education and health. These discussions help shape UNHCR's Community support projects, which aim to improve public infrastructure, benefitting both Libyan communities and refugees. Additional FGDs are planned in Ajdabiya and Alkufra in the coming weeks.



Cash-Based Intervention (CBI)

- **UNHCR's cash-based interventions offer crucial financial aid to some of those most at risk**, reaching 1,042 refugees (including 810 Sudanese) in February. The amount received is based on family size and the 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.



With the cash I received today, I can finally pay the rent and give my children a safe place to call home.

Ibtisam, 35, fled the war in Sudan with her four children, determined to build a future despite ongoing hardships. Struggling with a critical medical condition, she faces daily challenges to provide for her family. With support from UNHCR's emergency cash assistance, she can now secure rent and offer her children a more stable foundation.

 UNHCR/ Ziyad Alhamadi



On 4 February, a delegation from the Swiss Embassy headed by Fabrizio Poretti, Director for International Development, visited the UNHCR Registration Centre in Tripoli and met with UNHCR staff to discuss ongoing efforts to register and assist refugees fleeing conflict in Sudan. UNHCR/ Ziyad Alhamadi



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 eight thematic task forces (Protection, Shelter & NFI, Food Security, WASH, Health & Nutrition, Education, Livelihoods and Economic Inclusion, and Access). An Information Management (IM) Task Force supports data collection and management.
- On 4 and 12 February respectively, UNHCR received [the Embassy of Switzerland's Fabrizio Poretti and the Austrian Ambassador and Regional MENA Political Advisor](#) at UNHCR's Registration Centre in Serraj in Tripoli. The visits provided an opportunity to showcase ongoing efforts in registering and assisting refugees and asylum-seekers, particularly in response to the influx of Sudanese refugees to Libya fleeing the conflict in their country.
- On 17 February, humanitarian partners launched [the 2025 Regional Refugee Response Plan \(RRP\), in which the Libya chapter is seeking \\$106.6 million to support Sudanese refugees and host communities](#). In Libya, the plan, involving 20 UN agencies and INGOs, aims to assist 375,000 refugees, 1,000 third country nationals and 70,000 host community members with essential aid.

UNHCR PARTNERS



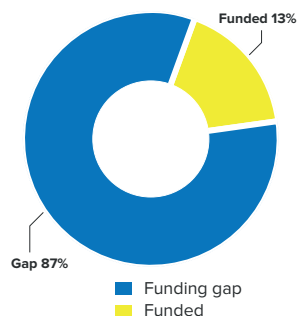
FUNDING INFORMATION

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 61.5 million

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



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