

# Libya

## Operational Update

31 January 2025

Cecilia, a 44-year-old refugee and mother of five from South Sudan, fled conflict and struggled to support her family due to impaired vision. Through UNHCR and CESVI's assistance, she received new glasses, allowing her to regain her independence.

UNHCR/ Ziyad Alhamadi



**82,549**

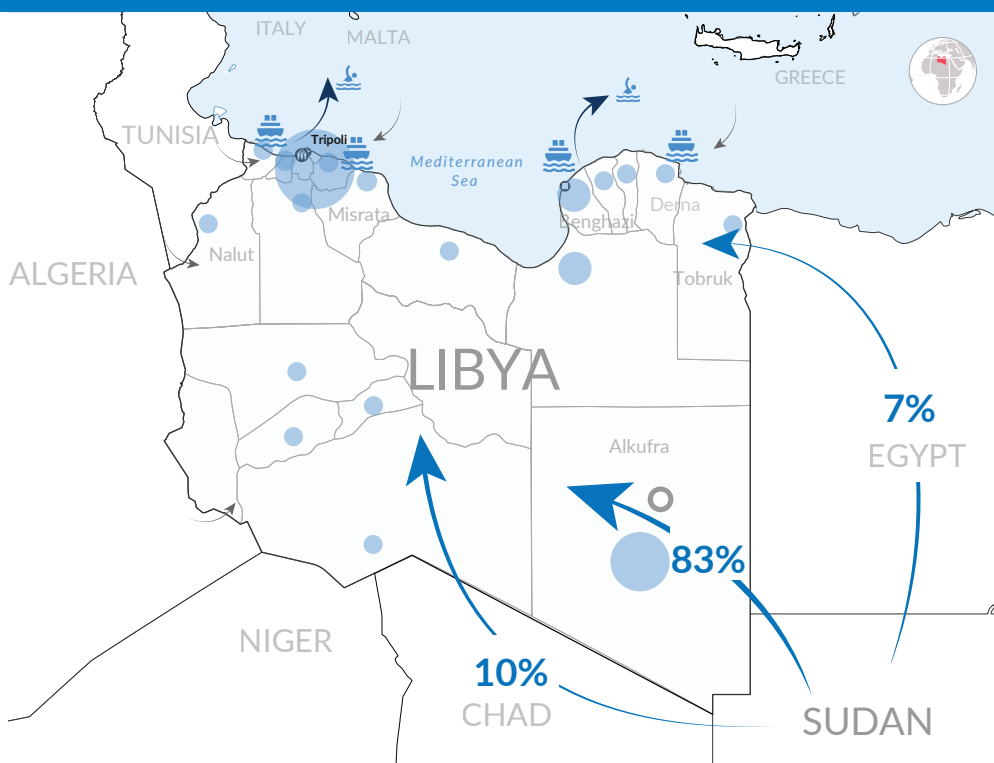
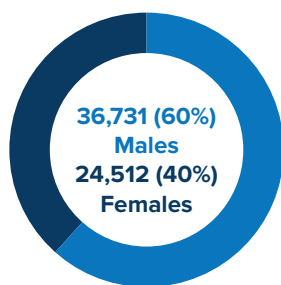
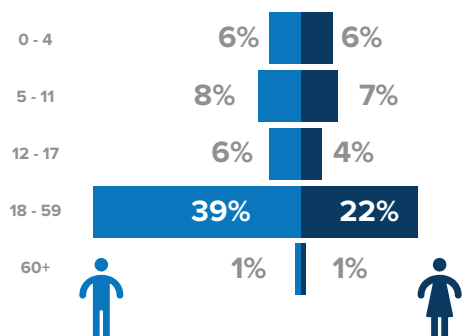
refugees registered with  
UNHCR in Tripoli.

**74%** are Sudanese refugees  
**10%** are Syrian refugees  
**10%** are Eritrean refugees  
**6%** other refugees<sup>2</sup>

### Sudanese Refugees

**61,243**

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



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

### In 2025:

- 550 refugees and internally displaced people received cash assistance
- 83 Best Interest Assessments (BIAs) for vulnerable refugee children, including unaccompanied and separated children
- 13,676 calls received by UNHCR's call centre
- 868 refugees have received tailored protection services
- 1,450 medical consultations provided to refugees
- 78 individuals were released from detention and received assistance from UNHCR

### Sudan response

- 389 Sudanese refugees received cash assistance
- 643 Sudanese refugees underwent in-depth protection needs assessments
- Protection surveys have been undertaken with 1,180 Sudanese refugees upon registration with UNHCR to assess the protection incidents faced on route and assess current protection needs
- 527 newly arrived Sudanese refugees have been reached by phone to identify their needs
- 646 Sudanese refugees received individual case management assistance including psychosocial assistance, child protection services, and support to survivors of violence
- 2,916 Sudanese refugees received non-food items
- 75 garbage containers provided to Alkufra Municipality to help with waste management



### PROTECTION

- By the end of January 2025, over 240,000 Sudanese refugees were estimated to have arrived in Libya following the outbreak of the war in Sudan. Authorities in Alkufra issued 140,500 health certificates to Sudanese refugees and 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 Libyan Coast Guard contributed to a rise in interceptions and rescues at sea. In January 2025, 2,398 people were returned from sea, compared to 429 in the same period of 2024. Arrivals in Italy have also increased, with 2,841 migrants and refugees arriving in Italy from Libya in January, compared to 1,091 during the same period in 2024.
- UNHCR and partners conducted 33 visits to detention centres (DCs) in January 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 1,407 individuals and provided 389 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 January, 5,762 individuals were detained of whom 14% (830) are potentially in need of international protection. UNHCR welcomed the [release](#) of 78 women and children, from Abusliem detention centre. Upon release, they were registered with UNHCR, and received financial assistance, medical treatment, blankets, clothes and personal care items. Some also received temporary shelter through UNHCR's dedicated caregivers. 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.





In January, 78 refugee women and children were released from Abusliem detention centre. Among those released are Luwam and Selam, refugees from Eritrea and Ethiopia who supported each other through the challenging times in detention.

📷 UNHCR/ Ziyad Alhamadi



## REGISTRATION

- By the end of January, UNHCR had registered 82,549 refugees (including 61,243 Sudanese refugees). 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. This month, [UNHCR handed over 12 latrines and 2 Rubb halls](#) to authorities aimed at improving the conditions for Sudanese refugees waiting to register and obtain documentation or receive assistance. These facilities aim to enhance sanitation and provide a comfortable shaded area, ensuring dignity and safety for refugees who have recently fled the conflict in Sudan in need of protection. [UNHCR also provided laptops, printers and other essential equipment](#) to authorities to support their capacity to register newly arrived Sudanese refugees in Alkufra. Registration by authorities in Alkufra was suspended in mid-January and remained so for the remainder of the month. It is unclear when the process would be resumed and UNHCR is working with authorities to find a solution.



UNHCR provided essential equipment to support authorities in registering newly arrived Sudanese refugees in Alkufra, ensuring protection and access to services.

📷 UNHCR



## PROTECTION ASSESSMENTS

- To understand and address refugee needs, UNHCR conducted 472 protection surveys this month, reaching around 1,180 Sudanese refugees. These surveys shed light on their journeys, family situations, and aspirations for the future. 87% had fled directly from Sudan, with 8% arriving through Chad, and 5% through Egypt. The perilous routes to safety remain a critical concern—Around 60% of refugees reported protection incidents during their journey, including smuggling (18%), assault (25%), and trafficking (16%). Only 21% managed to reach Libya without facing such dangers. 47% 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, and 86% of school aged children are not attending school, mainly due to lack of documentation required or financial means to enrol in schools. In 2025, UNHCR has conducted a total of 483 surveys reaching over 1,200 refugees of all nationalities.



## COMMUNICATION AND AWARENESS

- Efforts to enhance communication with communities included sessions for refugees at the Registration Centre. A total of 16 sessions were held during January and were attended by over 800 refugees of various nationalities. These sessions provided information on 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 continues to serve as a lifeline for refugees identified as highly vulnerable or at heightened risk. In January, 391 refugees, including 235 Sudanese refugees, received support. This assistance ranges from cash, medical care, psychosocial support, clothing, core relief items, and specialized care arrangements.
- During January 1,835 refugees received 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, 21 walk-in cases with urgent protection concerns were admitted. Of these, 17 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 1,166 individuals supported during the month.



## CHILD PROTECTION

- UNHCR conducted 83 Best Interest Assessments (BIAs) for vulnerable refugee children during January who, depending on their needs, were referred to various services, including temporary care, and families caring for them were provided with core relief items or cash assistance.
- In January 2025, 1,040 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, 898 children participated in unstructured play and recreational sessions and 142 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.



In UNHCR's child-friendly space, Hassan enjoys a moment of play while waiting for registration. After fleeing Sudan with his family, this space offers him a sense of normalcy.

 UNHCR/ Ziyad Alhamadi



## FIELD OPERATIONS



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

- **UNHCR's distribution of core relief items** across different parts of Libya in January provided essential support to over 4,000 refugees and asylum-seekers living in challenging conditions, including over 2,900 Sudanese refugees. These distributions—including blankets, mattresses, hygiene kits, baby supplies, clothes, 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.



UNHCR provided 75 garbage containers to Alkufra Municipality to improve waste management in both urban areas and remote locations hosting Sudanese refugees and local communities.



UNHCR

- On 16 January, **UNHCR provided 75 garbage containers to Alkufra Municipality** to help with waste management. The containers have a capacity of 1.1 cubic metres each and will be distributed to the farms and remote areas outside the city targeting both host community and Sudanese refugees. Public services and infrastructure in Alkufra have been overstretched due to the large influx of refugees.



### Cash-Based Intervention (CBI)

- UNHCR's cash-based interventions offer crucial financial aid to some of those most at risk, reaching 550 refugees (including 389 Sudanese) this month. 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.

## 2024 IN REVIEW

### UNHCR LIBYA 2024

Reflecting on the main milestones of the past year

To watch the video, click here:

<https://www.facebook.com/watch/?v=1132630758457396>





UNHCR welcomed the UK Deputy Ambassador and delegation at the Registration Centre in Tripoli. The visit focused on UNHCR's efforts to register refugees and asylum-seekers, ensuring access to essential services and protection. 📷 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 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 20 January, a meeting with the UNCT and authorities was held in Benghazi to discuss the implementation of 2024 RRP and plans for 2025 in view of avoiding duplication, creating synergies and ensuring sustainability. The meeting also discussed and reviewed operational challenges, lessons learned and agreed on jointly facilitating enablers which would expedite the UN's interventions.
- On 29 January, UNHCR received the [UK Deputy Ambassador and delegation](#) at the UNHCR Registration Centre in Tripoli. The visit provided insights into UNHCR's ongoing efforts to register refugees and asylum-seekers, particularly in response to the refugee influx from Sudan. Registration is a crucial step in ensuring access to essential services and critical assistance, and in some cases durable solutions to some of the most at-risk refugees.

## UNHCR PARTNERS



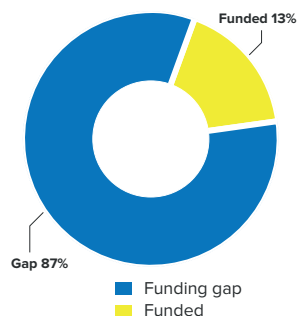
## FUNDING INFORMATION

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