

# Libya

## Operational Update

31 March 2025

Sudanese refugees continue to arrive in Alkufra, seeking safety from the war in Sudan. Here in Kreek Farm, UNHCR and partners are supporting families with basic services and life-saving assistance

UNHCR/ Emad Albireeki



**88,283**

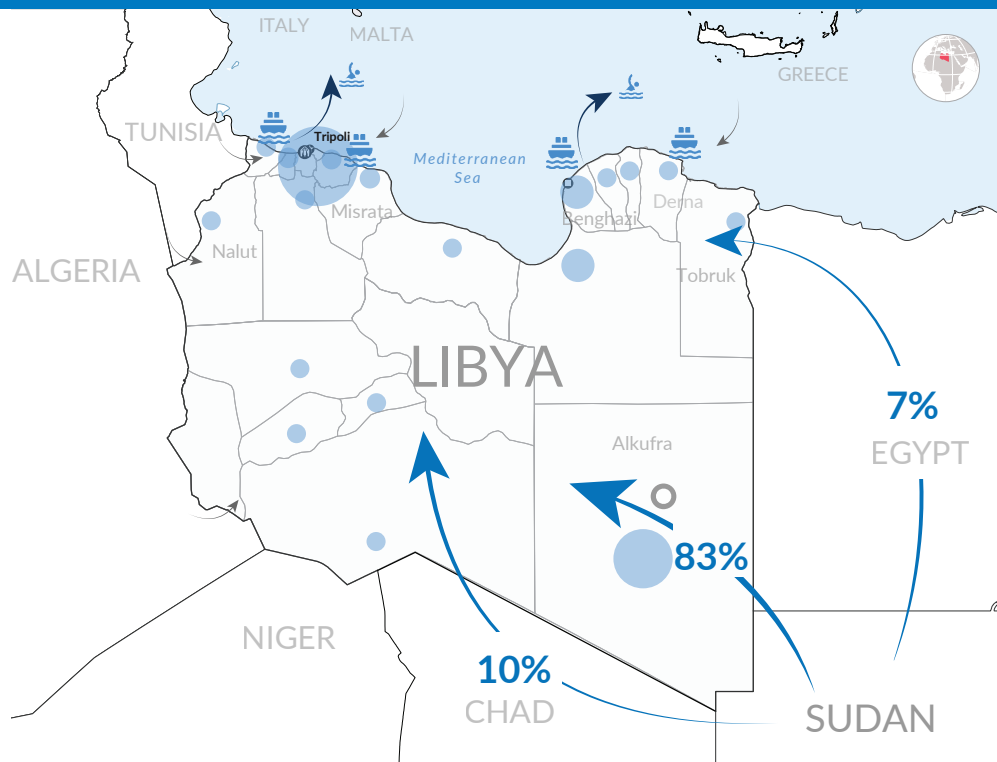
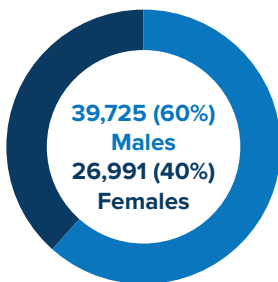
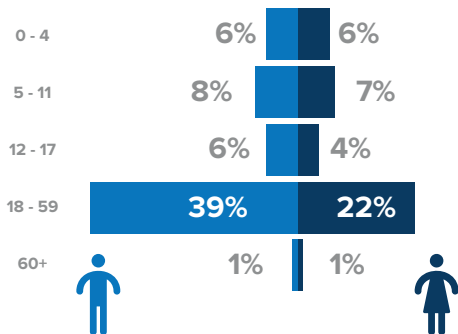
refugees registered with  
UNHCR in Tripoli.

**76%** are Sudanese refugees  
**10%** are Syrian refugees  
**8%** are Eritrean refugees  
**6%** other refugees<sup>2</sup>

### Sudanese Refugees

**66,716**

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	66,716	Refugees registered at UNHCR's registration centre in Tripoli
2,402	2,448	Refugees who received tailored protection services
141		Refugees relocated from detention centres to the urban setting
1,533	969	People rescued at sea
136	95	Refugees who departed Libya safely on durable solutions
14,252	9,545	Refugees and host communities who received core relief items and hygiene kits
6,938	4,191	Medical consultations provided (including in primary health in the urban settings, mental health, and at detention centres and disembarkation points)
2,047	1,561	Refugees who received cash or vouchers



### PROTECTION

- It is estimated that over 255,000 Sudanese refugees have arrived in Libya following the outbreak of the war in Sudan. In Alkufra, 164,977 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 arrival 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 March 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 8,502 migrants and refugees arriving in Italy from Libya by the end of March, compared to 7,421 during the same period last year. Out of all sea arrivals in Italy so far in 2025, 93% have embarked from Libya.
- Since the start of 2025, UNHCR and partners have 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. Since January, 3,303 detainees received core relief items (CRIs) and 1,105 medical consultations were provided in detention centres. These visits are part of UNHCR's commitment to address urgent humanitarian needs within detention facilities, where individuals often lack essential supplies and face harsh conditions. At the end of March, 6,083 individuals were detained, of whom 17% (1,033) are people in need of international protection.



UNHCR and the Libyan Red Crescent conducted a home visit in Alkufra to assess the needs and living conditions of newly arrived Sudanese refugees, providing them with information on how to access available assistance.

 UNHCR/ LRC





## REGISTRATION

- By the end of March, UNHCR had registered 88,283 refugees (including 66,716 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 psychosocial aid cases, temporary care arrangements, cash-based support, and in some cases, durable solutions.



## PROTECTION ASSESSMENTS

- To better understand and address refugee needs, UNHCR conducted 347 protection surveys in March, reaching refugees from Eritrea, Ethiopia and South Sudan, as well as 335 Sudanese refugee families. These surveys provided insight into their journeys, family situations, and future aspirations. Of the Sudanese surveyed, 83% fled directly from Sudan, while 10% arrived through Chad, and 7% through Egypt. The journey to safety remains dangerous, with around 80% of refugees reporting protection incidents, including smuggling (32%), assault (21%), and trafficking (11%). Only 19% managed to reach Libya without encountering such risks. 46% of Sudanese surveyed were women.
- Access to education remains a significant challenge, particularly for children. Almost half of the refugees surveyed were children, and 27% of school-aged children have no access to school—primarily due to a lack of required documentation or financial barriers. 56% of those surveyed said they came to Tripoli to access services and/or livelihood opportunities, and 21% said they feel safer than in other locations. Similarly, access to healthcare is a challenge for 74% of refugees surveyed mainly due to costs (75%). Only 13% indicated documentation as an impediment to accessing healthcare. Since the start of 2025, UNHCR has conducted 1,231 protection surveys, reaching over 3,075 refugees, including 3,000 Sudanese refugees.




## 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 March, 295 refugees, including 172 Sudanese, received assistance in the form of cash, medical care, psychosocial support, clothing, core relief items, and specialized care arrangements.
- The Community Day Centre (CDC) in Tripoli provided support to 457 refugees in March, focusing on medical assistance, protection needs assessments, case management, and child-friendly activities. Sudanese refugees remain the majority of those served, with 414 individuals assisted during the month.

## COMMUNICATION AND AWARENESS ON INTERNATIONAL WOMEN'S DAY



In celebration of International Women's Day on 8 March, UNHCR conducted two [awareness session](#) at the Registration Centre highlighting the role of women in preventing violence and leading communities towards a more supportive environment. 40 refugee women of various nationalities participated in the sessions that spoke about their rights and available support services pending registration, helping refugees understand how to access assistance. Interpretation was provided for non-Arabic speakers.

 UNHCR/ Aml Albarghouti



## CHILD PROTECTION

- Since January 2025, 236 Best Interest Assessments (BIAs) have been conducted. 69 BIAs were conducted for vulnerable refugee children in March, including 51 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. UNHCR works with a total of 51 caregivers who are currently hosting 150 individuals under alternative care arrangements.
- At UNHCR's Child-Friendly Spaces in the Registration Centre and the CDC, 454 refugee children participated in activities fostering a safe and supportive environment. 437 children engaged in unstructured play and recreational sessions, while 17 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, including evacuation, resettlement, and complementary pathways. So far this year, 174 refugees have been provided with durable solutions, including 39 refugees who departed on resettlement flights during March. In preparation for an evacuation flight scheduled for 23 April, UNHCR has confirmed the manifest of vulnerable refugees that match the criteria for this durable solution. Predeparture formalities including medical screening, preparation of travel documents and exit permits, and information sessions have now begun.

## FIELD OPERATIONS



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

- In March, UNHCR provided core relief items to over 1,100 refugees and asylum-seekers across Libya, including 833 Sudanese refugees. These distributions—comprising blankets, mattresses, hygiene kits, baby supplies, clothing, solar lamps, plastic sheets, 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.



### Health Assistance

- UNHCR provided primary health care services in urban areas of Tripoli and Misrata through its health partner. So far in 2025, 5,344 primary health consultations were conducted, alongside support for 418 mental health cases and coordination of 339 referrals for secondary and tertiary care. Additionally, 321 individuals received assistance through a 24/7 medical hotline. During visits to various detention centres in the country, 1,015 primary healthcare consultations were made, and 39 referrals were facilitated. Similarly, at disembarkation points, 258 individuals received primary health care, with four referred for further treatment.



### Cash-Based Intervention (CBI)

- UNHCR's cash-based interventions offer crucial financial aid to some of those most at risk, reaching 455 refugees (including 362 Sudanese) in March. 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.





On 5 March, at its Registration Centre in Serraj in Tripoli, UNHCR received **the Humanitarian Advisor to Libya from the UK Foreign, Commonwealth and Development Office, Ian Purvis**. During his visit to the Registration Centre, he met with refugees, hearing firsthand about their experiences and the support available to them. He also received a briefing on UNHCR's work across Libya, from vital protection services to humanitarian assistance efforts aimed at supporting refugees and asylum-seekers in need. 📷 UNHCR/ Aml Albarghouti



## 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.

### UNHCR PARTNERS

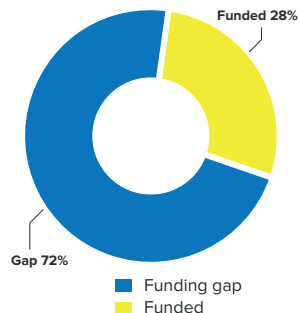


### FUNDING INFORMATION

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](#)