



UNHCR
The UN Refugee Agency

Libya

Operational Update

30 April 2025

Jal and Gisma, refugees from South Sudan, and their three children, making the final preparations at the Jugurtine Medical Centre in Tripoli before boarding the bus that will take them to the airport for the evacuation flight to Rwanda through the Emergency Transit Mechanism.

📷 UNHCR/ Ziyad Alhamadi



91,427

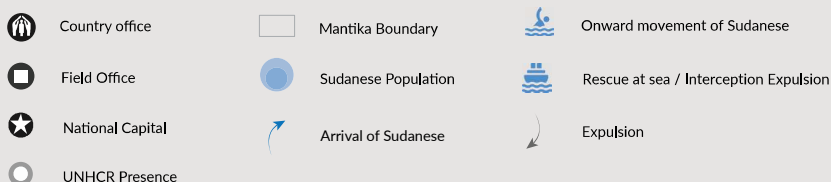
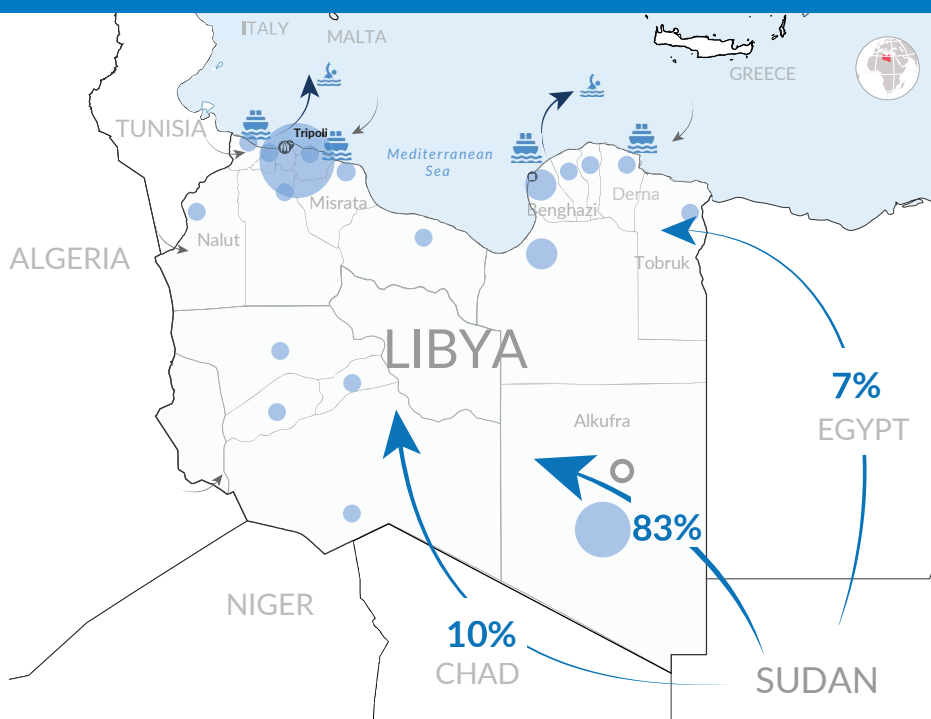
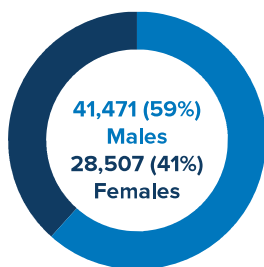
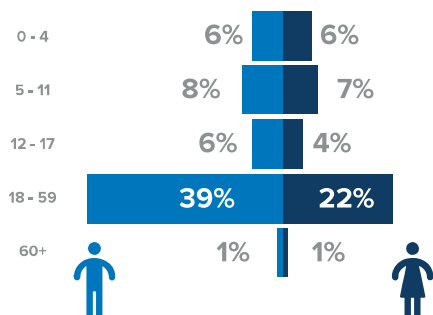
refugees registered with
UNHCR in Tripoli.

77% are Sudanese refugees
10% are Syrian refugees
7% are Eritrean refugees
6% other refugees²

Sudanese Refugees

69,978

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

Overall	Sudanese refugees	Indicator
91,427	69,978	Refugees registered at UNHCR's Registration Centre in Tripoli
3,928	2,759	Refugees who received tailored protection services
143		Refugees relocated from detention centres to the urban setting
7,286	1,067	People rescued at sea
398	239	Refugees who departed Libya safely on durable solutions
25,150	18,213	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

IMPACT OF THE SUSPENSION OF INTERNATIONAL NON-GOVERNMENTAL ORGANISATIONS (INGOs):

Since mid-March, authorities in the west of Libya have suspended several INGOs, including UNHCR's partners, severely impacting operations. The Community Day Centre (CDC) is closed, which was a hub for refugees to receive targeted support. Life-saving assistance at disembarkation points and in detention centres has also been affected, as well as resettlement and humanitarian evacuation flights. To ensure activities continue and the needs of refugees are met, UNHCR has taken on increased case management responsibilities, assisting and referring vulnerable individuals as necessary, and has completely taken over conducting protection needs (PNAs) and Best Interests (BIAs) assessments, providing psychological first aid (PFA), and counselling and supporting the Community Based Care Arrangement programme. Similarly, UNHCR is providing life-saving assistance at disembarkation points and detention centres and engaged a medical provider to conduct medical screening for durable solutions.



PROTECTION

- It is estimated that over 313,000 Sudanese refugees have arrived in Libya following the outbreak of the war in Sudan. Most arrivals to Libya continue to be directly from Sudan, with 245,000 Sudanese estimated to have arrived in Libya through Alkufra alone. According to the Ministry of Health in Alkufra, over 164,000 health certificates were issued to Sudanese refugees. 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. By end of April 2025, 7,286 people were intercepted or rescued at sea in 97 operations, compared to 5,141 in the same

period of 2024. Departures from Tobruk (441 km east of Benghazi) have increased in recent months, with 1,311 individuals returned from sea so far this year—more than half of them in April alone. This marks a significant rise, as there had been no returns by the end of April 2024 and only 435 returns recorded throughout all of last year. Arrivals in Italy have also increased, with 13,691 migrants and refugees arriving in Italy from Libya by the end of April, compared to 8,759 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 97 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 April, 5,982 individuals were detained, of whom 18% (1,105) are people in need of international protection.



PROTECTION ASSESSMENTS

- To better understand and address refugee needs, UNHCR conducted 339 protection surveys in April, reaching refugees from Eritrea, Ethiopia and South Sudan, as well as 336 Sudanese refugee families. These surveys provided insight into their journeys, family situations, and future aspirations. Of the Sudanese surveyed, 81% fled directly from Sudan, 15% arrived through Chad, and 4% through Egypt. The journey to safety remains dangerous, with around 80% of refugees reporting protection incidents, including smuggling (21%), assault (22%), and trafficking (8%). Only 35% managed to reach Libya without encountering such risks. 46% of the Sudanese refugees surveyed were women.
- Access to education remains a significant challenge, particularly for children. Almost half of the refugees surveyed were children, and 73% of school-aged children have no access to school, primarily due to a lack of required documentation or financial barriers. 12% of those surveyed said they came to Tripoli to access services and/or livelihood opportunities, and 19% said they feel safer than in other locations. Similarly, access to healthcare is a challenge for 79% of refugees surveyed, mainly due to costs (68%). Only 9% indicated documentation as an impediment to accessing healthcare. Since the start of 2025, UNHCR has conducted 1,571 protection surveys, reaching over 3,927 refugees, including 3,845 Sudanese refugees.



REGISTRATION

- By the end of April, UNHCR had registered 91,427 refugees (including 69,978 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, and in some cases, durable solutions.
- Authorities in Alkufra continue to register Sudanese refugees and issue them with Security Registration Cards (SRCs) which allow people freedom of movement in the east/south of Libya and enables access to public services. While SRCs are issued free of charge, Sudanese refugees are charged 160 Libyan Dinars (LYD) for health certificates as part of the process. Health certificates were free in the past and UNHCR is exploring if this charge can be dropped.

Meet Salah, our youngest Sudanese refugee registered

At just three months old, Salah and his family were registered with UNHCR, ensuring access to protection, medical care, cash assistance, and more. Every registration is a step toward safety, dignity, and hope.





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 April, 270 refugees, including 196 Sudanese, received assistance in the form of medical care, psychosocial support, clothing, core relief items, and specialized care arrangements.



CHILD PROTECTION

- Since January 2025, 277 Best Interest Assessments (BIAs) have been conducted. In April, 40 BIAs were conducted for vulnerable refugee 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 49 caregivers who are currently hosting 153 individuals under alternative care arrangements.
- At UNHCR's child-friendly space in the Registration Centre, 878 refugee children participated in activities fostering a safe and supportive environment. So far this year, over 2,900 children have benefited from structured and unstructured sessions at UNHCR's Registration Centre and the Community Day Centre (CDC). Unfortunately, since the suspension of INGO activities in Tripoli, the CDC managed by CESVI has been closed. Therefore, refugee children depend on the child-friendly space at UNHCR's Registration Centre to be able to play and have a short reprieve from the trauma of displacement.
- In an emotional reunion in Tripoli, UNHCR's child protection team reunited a young Sudanese girl with her older sister after fleeing from Sudan following the war. The younger sister was smuggled into Libya in late 2024 and was confronted with detention and severe hardship before joining her sister. She has since received targeted support to help her cope with her traumatic experience.
- 80 children were assessed for educational needs through surveys conducted in April. All children were found to be in need of educational support. As a result, they were referred to UNICEF for assistance and potential placement in Bayti Centres where they can receive educational support. Almost 90% of these children were Sudanese many of whom have recently arrived in Libya.

DURABLE SOLUTIONS



I am leaving in search of safety; a new start, where my children can learn and grow.

said Rahma, a Sudanese mother, who was evacuated with her five children. [Read her story here.](#)

A key priority for UNHCR is securing durable solutions for vulnerable refugees, including evacuation, resettlement, and complementary pathways. **On 23 April, UNHCR Libya evacuated 137 refugees and asylum-seekers in the first flight to Rwanda this year through the Emergency Transit Mechanism (ETM)** where refugees are temporarily hosted before they are relocated to countries offering resettlement places. The group was from Ethiopia, Eritrea, South Sudan, and Sudan, and included 40 women and 42 children. 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. So far this year, 398 refugees have been provided with durable solutions, including evacuation (272 individuals), resettlement (122 individuals), and complementary pathways (4 individuals).

📷 UNHCR/ Aml Albarghouti



COMMUNICATION AND AWARENESS

- Efforts to enhance communication with communities included 15 information sessions at the Registration Centre in April, attended by 1,175 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.
- 33 refugees have participated in focus group discussions in Benghazi and Tripoli to help identify the protection needs of Sudanese refugees and help UNHCR to respond effectively. Protection concerns have included fear of detention, overcrowded and unaffordable housing conditions, and minimal access to healthcare, especially for undocumented refugees. Refugees also highlighted that, despite their skills, they are trapped in low-paying, unsafe informal work, with new arrivals quickly falling into destitution.

FIELD OPERATIONS



Shelter and Non-Food Items (NFI)

- In April, UNHCR provided core relief items to over 9,000 refugees, asylum-seekers, and host community members across Libya, including 8,333 Sudanese refugees, bringing the total number of individuals that have received this type of assistance to over 25,000. Over 2,500 refugee families received non-food items in April across Libya (Alkufra, Benghazi, Murzuq, and Tripoli) in collaboration with LibAid and the Libyan Red Crescent (LRC). These distributions including 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

- As a result of the suspension of INGO activities, medical services are no longer available at the CDC or UNHCR's Registration Centre. Life-threatening medical cases are referred internally and handled by UNHCR's Health Unit for interventions through the national system. However, due to the public system's lack of capacity and the absence of a formal referral mechanism, urgent medical cases still face dire conditions. UNHCR is working with the government to find solutions.
- Nevertheless, targeted health support for vulnerable refugees remains ongoing. This month, in eastern Libya (Ajdabiya, Awjela, Al-Baydha, Al-Marj, Benghazi, and Jalu) 25 Sudanese refugees with disabilities received wheelchairs, significantly improving their mobility and quality of life.



**It was very difficult, I couldn't move,
My old chair was broken.
But now this new one... It's really good.**

Hasan, 62, fled the conflict in Sudan. He faced years of hardship; with his legs amputated and a worn-out wheelchair that left him nearly immobile. People with disabilities are among the most vulnerable groups that UNHCR serves.

 UNHCR/ Mohammed Abraheem





On 29 April, UNHCR Libya received the Ambassador of Japan to Libya, Shimmura Izuru, at its Registration Centre in Serraj, Tripoli. During the visit, the Ambassador met with refugees and heard firsthand about their experiences and the support provided by UNHCR. UNHCR expressed gratitude for Japan's commitment to UNHCR globally in supporting vulnerable communities. 📷 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.
- Marking two years since the war in Sudan began, **UNHCR and the Directorate-General for European Civil Protection and Humanitarian Aid Operations (ECHO) organized an event on 10 of April**, to highlight the regional dimensions of the Sudan crisis and provide a platform for refugee-hosting countries to discuss the impact of the crisis on their national systems and host communities, as well as highlight the response efforts, operational challenges, and urgent needs. Mr. Ahmed Al-Jadak, from the Department of International Organizations at the Ministry of Foreign Affairs for the State of Libya reaffirmed the partnership and cooperation with UNHCR, the access to territory and public services for Sudanese refugees, and commitment to efforts related to humanitarian evacuations and resettlement outside of Libya.

UNHCR PARTNERS



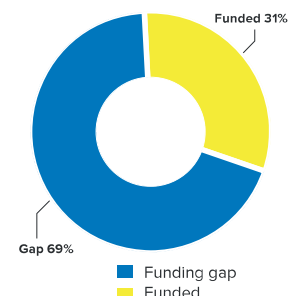
FUNDING INFORMATION

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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