

Libya

Operational Update

31 July 2025

UNHCR's registration team helped reunite Samir (35) and Maymona (30), Sudanese refugees separated for over a year while fleeing conflict. Now in Tripoli, they begin a new chapter together.

📷 UNHCR/ Ziyad Alhamadi



97,505

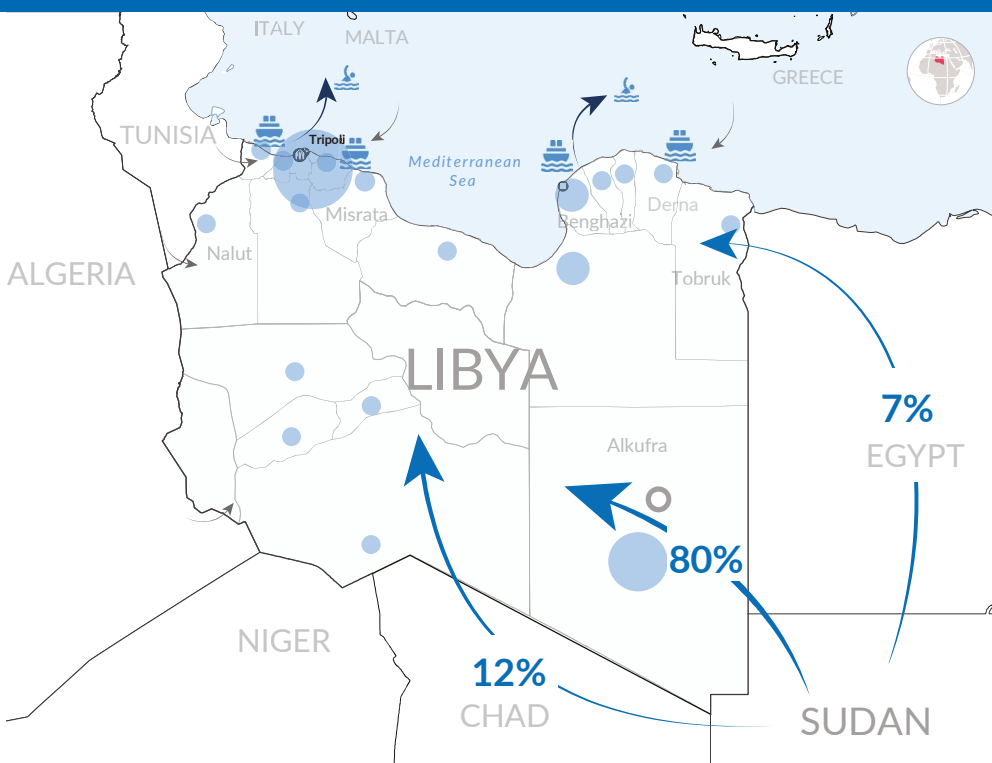
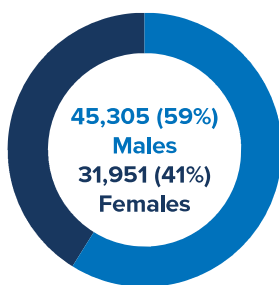
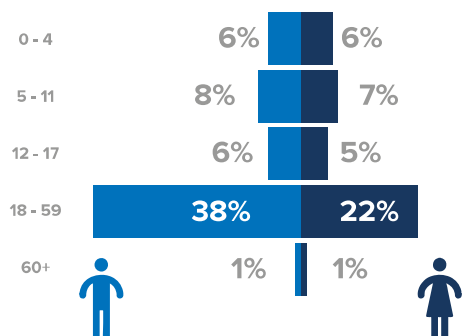
registered with UNHCR
in Tripoli.

79% are Sudanese refugees
9.3% are Syrian refugees
5.8% are Eritrean refugees
6% other refugees²

Sudanese Refugees

77,256

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



Arrival of Sudanese



Onward movement of Sudanese

1. The arrival trends of Sudanese refugees are based on surveys conducted with Sudanese refugee households in 2025, registration data, protection monitoring and outreach findings.

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

HIGHLIGHTS

Overall	Sudanese refugees	Indicator
97,505	77,256	Refugees registered at UNHCR's Registration Centre in Tripoli
6,298	5,066	Refugees who received tailored protection services
143		Refugees relocated from detention centres to the urban setting following UNHCR's advocacy
13,611	2,811	People rescued at sea
644	405	Refugees who departed Libya safely on durable solutions
58,811	42,538	Refugees and host communities who received core relief items and hygiene kits
6,617	4,191	Medical consultations provided (including in primary health in the urban settings, mental health, and at detention centres and disembarkation points)
2,085	1,586	Refugees who received cash or vouchers

SITUATION OF SUDANESE REFUGEES IN ALKUFRA

1,000 Sudanese refugees were brought from Rubyana, a remote area 120 km west of Alkufra. According to reports, they were transported by smugglers with tribal affiliations to the Tebu community in Rubyana. The refugees had been staying in open areas in Rubyana for periods ranging from one week to one month under extremely harsh conditions. The journey from Sudan to Libya took up to two months, crossing the border into Libya through Chad. The refugees originate from several locations in Sudan, including Khartoum, El Fula, Al Fasher, Al Geneina, Nyala, and El Daein and were suffering from malnutrition.



PROTECTION

- It is estimated that 374,000 Sudanese refugees have arrived in Libya following the outbreak of the war in Sudan. According to the Ministry of Health in Alkufra, over 193,366 health certificates were issued to Sudanese refugees. There has been a noticeable increase in the number of Sudanese arrivals entering Libya through Chad, from 10% at the beginning of the year to 12%. Many of these individuals are taking longer and more dangerous routes to avoid passing through the Triangle area, due to clashes that took place in May and June, changes in control over the Triangle and the intensified presence of Libyan authorities controlling the borders south of AlKufra.
- 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 July, 1,636 people were intercepted or rescued at sea, amounting to a total of 13,611 people since the start of the year, compared to 9,153 in the same period in 2024. Prior to the suspension of international NGOs in the West, UNHCR was able to access 5 disembarkation points in the Tripoli area. The suspension has greatly hampered UNHCR's response, and no life-saving assistance has been provided at disembarkation points in the Tripoli area since mid-March. UNHCR has been advocating for a solution.

- Departures from Tobruk (441 km east of Benghazi) increased from March, with 3,537 individuals intercepted at sea and returned to Libya since the start of the year. However, in July, only 126 individuals were returned, which is a sharp drop of about 90%. UNHCR has strengthened its presence in Tobruk with local partner LRC to be able to provide immediate assistance at the disembarkation point. All migrants and refugees intercepted at sea and returned to Libya are brought to detention centres.
- As a result of the security developments in Tripoli since mid-May, Tajoura remains the only operational DC in the Tripoli area. During the month of July, UNHCR was able to access the DC nine times to identify individuals in need of international protection and to assess and respond to humanitarian needs, such as the distribution of bedding and hygiene kits. At the end of July, 5,723 individuals were detained in official detention centres across the country, of whom 25% (1,430) are people in need of international protection.



REGISTRATION

- By the end of July, UNHCR had registered 97,505 refugees (including 77,256 Sudanese refugees). Registration enables access to essential services, including health assistance, CRIs, and tailored protection support, which includes identifying the most at-risk psychosocial aid cases, arranging temporary care, and, in some cases, providing durable solutions.
- In Alkufra, authorities have been registering Sudanese refugees and issuing Security Registration Cards (SRCs), which provide access to public services in eastern and southern Libya. While the SRCs are free, refugees must pay 160 LYD for mandatory health certificates as part of the process. On 23 July, DCIM suspended registration and on 31 July LRC suspended issuing health certificates pending a review of the health screening process and issuance of health cards. Currently, only individuals who already hold health cards can be registered. UNHCR is closely following the situation and hopes the review will have a positive outcome, including the removal of health card fees.



Refugees line up at UNHCR's Registration Centre in Serraj, Tripoli, where new arrivals and individuals seeking assistance are received and registered.

UNHCR/ Ziyad Alhamadi



PROTECTION ASSESSMENTS

- UNHCR conducted protection surveys in July with 94 Sudanese refugee families to better understand and address refugee needs. These surveys provided insight into their journeys, family situations, and future aspirations. Of the Sudanese refugees surveyed, 70% were directly from Sudan, 28% arrived through Chad, and 2% arrived through Egypt. The journey to safety remains dangerous, with over 80% of refugees reporting protection incidents, including assault (52%), trafficking (13%), and smuggling (8%).
- Access to education remains a significant challenge, particularly for children. 40% of the refugees surveyed were children, and 82% of school-aged children have no access to school, primarily due to a lack of required documentation or financial barriers. 66% of those surveyed said they came to Tripoli to access services and/or livelihood opportunities. Access to healthcare is a challenge for 13% of refugees surveyed, mainly due to the cost of consultation and treatment. Since the start of 2025, UNHCR has conducted 1,839 protection surveys, reaching 4,597 refugees, including 4,507 Sudanese refugees.



COMMUNICATION AND AWARENESS

- Since January 2025, UNHCR has conducted over 67 awareness sessions, with the participation of 3,881 refugees from Eritrea, Ethiopia, Palestine, Somalia, South Sudan, Sudan, Syria. These sessions cover a range of topics, including services available, official communication channels, and identifying and reporting fraud. In July, 12 focus group discussions (FGD) were conducted with a total of 100 participants, held at the UNHCR Registration Centre in Tripoli to explore key protection concerns and obstacles to accessing basic services. Following FGD sessions, participants are referred to specialized services and assistance (including NFI distributions) depending on their circumstances.
- UNHCR delivered two capacity-building sessions for local partner Moomken call centre operators on general case management referrals, GBV, and SEA, and child protection to strengthen call processing and referral pathways. The training included interactive discussions on referral mechanisms and criteria to ensure the smooth and timely processing of cases in need.



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 UNHCR/ Moomken



TAILORED PROTECTION ASSISTANCE

- UNHCR's protection desk at the Registration Centre remains a vital support mechanism for some of the most at-risk refugees. By the end of July, 2,075 refugees were received at the protection desk and referred and received assistance in the form of medical care, psychosocial support, clothing, core relief items, and specialized care arrangements.
- An Eritrean refugee reported to the Protection Desk after escaping a trafficking camp in Tobruk, where he suffered mistreatment. This case is part of a wider pattern: since January 2025, the desk has registered 616 trafficked refugees of various nationalities, many subjected to grave abuses such as enforced disappearance, torture, forced starvation, and sexual violence. Most victims were taken by traffickers from border points, particularly with Sudan, and detained in camps where these violations occurred.



CHILD PROTECTION

- Since January 2025, 430 Best Interest Assessments (BIAs) of vulnerable refugee children have been conducted, including 53 BIAs during the month of July. 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 50 caregivers who are currently hosting 127 individuals under alternative care arrangements.

Since the suspension of INGO activities in Tripoli, the Community Day Centre (CDC) managed by CESVI has been closed. Therefore, refugee children depend on the child-friendly space (CFS) at UNHCR's Registration Centre to be able to play and have a short reprieve from the trauma of displacement. In July, 823 refugee children participated in activities fostering a safe and supportive environment. So far this year, 5,814 children have benefited from such structured and unstructured sessions at UNHCR's Registration Centre and, previously, at the CDC.

 UNHCR/ Ziyad Alhamadi



- During the month, 123 out-of-school refugee children were identified and referred to Bayti centres run by UNICEF for further support. In light of the current suspension of partner INGOs, providing sufficient support has been challenging. Nonetheless, UNHCR continues to monitor trends and support when possible.



DURABLE SOLUTIONS

- A key priority for UNHCR is securing durable solutions for vulnerable refugees, including evacuation, resettlement, and complementary pathways. In July, 50 women, men, girls and boys departed on resettlement (42) and family reunification (8) totalling 663 refugees who have been provided with durable solutions, including evacuation (343 individuals), resettlement (303 individuals), and complementary pathways (17 individuals) since January.
- The Emergency Transit Mechanism (ETM) in Rwanda has offered a safe transit for over 2,700 vulnerable refugees registered with UNHCR in Libya. The aim of the ETM is to identify durable solutions through resettlement pledges by EU Member States and other countries offering resettlement opportunities. UNHCR planned for four flights to depart Libya for Rwanda with refugees. So far in 2025, only one evacuation flight has taken place to the ETM in Rwanda. The second flight, which was scheduled for July, has been postponed due to the limited number of resettlement departures from the ETM, which does not allow for additional evacuations from Libya. The ETM can only be successful on a revolving basis, otherwise vulnerable refugees will remain in Libya at risk of arbitrary detention, abuse, refoulement.

FIELD OPERATIONS



Shelter and Non-Food Items (NFI)

- Many refugees arrive in Libya with little more than the clothes they are wearing. During the month, UNHCR and partners [LibAid](#) and LRC provided over 11,100 Sudanese refugees in towns across Libya – Alkufra, Misrata, Sebha, and Tripoli – with essential items, such as mattresses, blankets, solar lamps, kitchen sets, jerrycans, and tarpaulins, to help cover their most immediate needs. In some cases, distributions took place well past sunset to avoid the searing heat, especially in [Alkufra](#). Libyan host communities were also supported with relief items to cope with the added pressure on local resources due to the increased number of people living in these towns. By the end of July, UNHCR and its partners had reached 58,813 individuals, including 42,583 Sudanese refugees and 6,130 members of the host community, with essential items.



UNHCR/ Ziyad Alhamadi

STORY OF THE MONTH

Mufida, Twhid, Mohamed, and Take had lost hope — until they found each other again.

The four siblings fled the brutal war in Sudan and were displaced for two years, separated by the chaos of conflict. Each ended up in different parts of Libya, unaware that their brothers and sisters were so close.

But hope found a way. Once they registered with UNHCR, their records were traced and they were finally reunited. Tears, hugs, and a deep sense of belonging marked the moment. After so much loss, they are together again.

As they hold on to each other now, they continue to dream of returning home — to reunite with the rest of their family who could not flee, and to rebuild their lives in peace.

UNHCR stands with them and joins their call: the war in Sudan must end, so families can return in safety and dignity.



Health Assistance

- With the aim of expanding access to health services and community engagement, **UNHCR's local partner, LRC, conducted 49 community consultation assessments** in Alkufra, Az-Zawiyah and Benghazi ensuring that community voices and needs are directly informing healthcare planning. A comprehensive assessment was carried out in Alkufra providing valuable insights to strengthen service delivery
- Health education efforts continued, with two awareness sessions delivered in July. These sessions aim to strengthen community knowledge on essential health issues. Current sessions focus on hygiene practices, prevention of respiratory diseases, promotion of mental health well-being, and information on available health services. Additional health topics will be introduced throughout the year, ensuring continuous support to communities to adopt healthier practices, improving access to care, and enhancing overall resilience. Mental health support remains a priority, and two group counselling sessions were conducted in July, reaching more individuals in need of psychosocial support.



UNHCR's local partner LRC engages with Sudanese refugee women during a community health awareness session in Alkufra.

UNHCR/ LRC



On 7 July, UNHCR, UNHCR's Chief of Mission Karmen Sakhr, organized a **donor briefing at the UNHCR office in Tripoli** to update on the refugee response and priority needs underscoring the importance of sustained support for refugees and host communities in Libya. 📷 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. As of the end of June, the financial requirements for Libya are US\$106.6 million, of which 23% are funded.
- During the month, Karmen Sakhr also met with UK Ambassador Martin Longden thanking him for UK support to UNHCR globally and in Libya to find solutions for refugees.

UNHCR PARTNERS

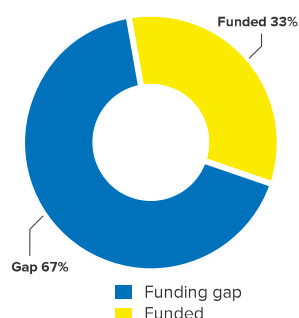


FUNDING INFORMATION

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.

US\$ 61.5 million

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



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