

Libya

Operational Update

30 September 2025

August-September

Ali, a Sudanese refugee, and his wife and children departing on resettlement. “I hope my children can grow up in peace, get an education, and contribute to the community that welcomes us.” he says. UNHCR continues to seek safe pathways and durable solutions for refugees most at risk. 📷 UNHCR/ Ziyad Alhamadi



104,069

registered with UNHCR
in Tripoli.

81% are Sudanese refugees

8.5% are Eritrean refugees

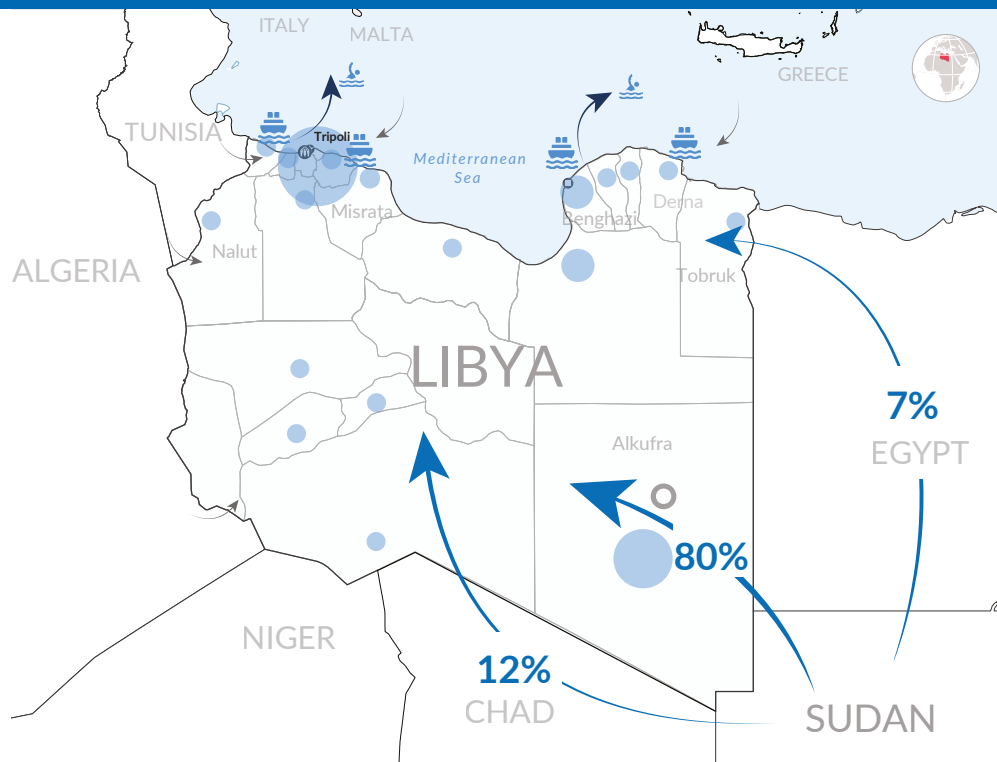
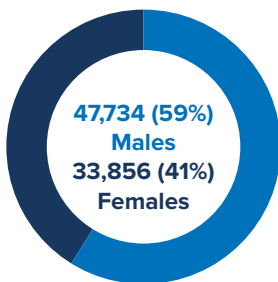
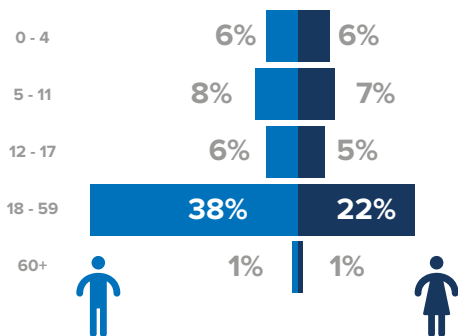
5% are Syrian refugees

6% other refugees²

Sudanese Refugees

84,422

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, 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	Assistance
104,069	84,422	Refugees registered at UNHCR's Registration Centre in Tripoli
12,319	7,589	Refugees who received tailored protection services
160	-	Refugees relocated from detention centres to the urban setting following UNHCR's advocacy
19,751	2,046	People rescued at sea
797	516	Refugees who departed Libya safely on durable solutions
80,368	59,945	Refugees and host communities who received core relief items and hygiene kits
6,276	3,837	Medical consultations provided (including in primary health in the urban settings, detention centres and disembarkation points) and cases assisted through the medical hotline
1,970	1,485	Refugees who received cash or vouchers

OPERATIONAL CONTEXT

Between 24–30 September, there was a sharp escalation of xenophobic campaigns online and on the streets. A coordinated “anti-resettlement” movement gained momentum on [Facebook and TikTok](#), accusing UNHCR and INGOs of “settling” migrants and offering incentives. The rhetoric turned increasingly inflammatory, with posts inciting violence and framing foreigners as threats to sovereignty and culture.

On 26 September, protests took place in Tripoli, Zawiya, and Misrata demanding deportations. In Misrata, residents attacked a market run by refugees and migrants, while security forces in Tripoli, Sabratha, and Ghot Al-Shaal carried out raids, evictions, and mass arrests. On 28 September, the Sabratha Security Directorate confirmed the arrest of hundreds of African migrants and action against landlords renting to them ([source](#)); similar operations were reported in Zawiya. Groups of migrants gathered outside embassies, including Niger's, to request repatriation.

UNHCR was directly targeted by viral posts falsely claiming it facilitates resettlement and provides payments to migrants and authorities. Lawyer [Thouraya Twebi](#) petitioned the Attorney General and Parliament for stronger measures against irregular migrants and international organizations.


This xenophobia is directly impacting Sudanese refugees in Libya, where there is a push for their return to Sudan.



PROTECTION

- It is estimated that 412,000 Sudanese refugees have arrived in Libya following the outbreak of the war in Sudan, approximately 340,000 Sudanese arriving through Alkufra alone. According to the Ministry of Health in Alkufra, 195,746 health certificates were issued to Sudanese refugees. Many are taking increasingly long and risky routes to avoid the Triangle area, following clashes, shifts in control, and increased Libyan border presence south of Alkufra. Refugees report the high cost of transportation from Ounianga, Chad, to Alkufra, that reaches 1,100 LYD per person.
- 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 August and September, 6,508 people were intercepted or rescued at sea, amounting to a total of 19,751 people since the start of the year, compared to 17,632 in the same period in 2024.
- Departures from **Tobruk** (441 km east of Benghazi) increased from March, with 4,510 individuals intercepted at sea and returned to Libya since the start of the year, including 973 individuals during the months of August and September. 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.
- Due to the security situation in Tripoli since May, Tajoura Detention Centre remains the only functioning DC in the area. In August and September, UNHCR conducted 20 visits to the centre to identify individuals in need of international protection and to assess and address humanitarian needs, including the distribution of bedding and hygiene kits. At the end of September, 5,836 individuals were detained in official detention centres across the country, of which 28% (1,665) are potential persons of concern in need of international protection.



UNHCR distributes mattresses and hygiene kits to detainees at Ganfuda Detention Centre during a protection and humanitarian assessment visit.  UNHCR



REGISTRATION

- By the end of September, UNHCR had registered 104,069 refugees (including 84,442 Sudanese refugees) at its registration centre in Tripoli. 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.
- Registration by the DCIM in Alkufra remains suspended with no indication of when it will resume. Nevertheless, the Libyan Red Crescent (LRC) continues to issue health cards to Sudanese new arrivals. These health cards are intended to facilitate their freedom of movement within Alkufra and protect them from detention or deportation. UNHCR had supported the registration process by providing equipment and consumables to local authorities.



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 August and September, 324 and 272 individuals respectively were received, bringing the total number of persons assisted this year to 2,060. The largest portion of cases identified are women at risk who tend to be single or alone with small children. Unaccompanied and separated children are the next largest number of cases for which specialized care arrangements are sought. Other vulnerable categories are individuals with serious medical conditions, and those with specific legal and physical protection needs. Refugees were referred for assistance including medical care, psychosocial support, clothing, core relief items, and specialized care arrangements.



COMMUNICATION AND AWARENESS

- Since January 2025, UNHCR has conducted over 84 awareness sessions, with the participation of 5,031 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 August and September, 9 focus group discussions (FGD) were conducted with a total of 65 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. Insecurity often prevents home visits and UNHCR protection teams therefore conduct assessments remotely via phone. During the same period, 14 remote protection monitoring assessments were conducted, reaching 188 Sudanese individuals. Vulnerable cases identified during these assessments are referred to specialised assistance.

A LIFELINE FOR REFUGEES

A critical channel for refugees to communicate with UNHCR is the Tawasul Call Centre managed by UNHCR's local partner Moomken. By calling 1504, refugees and asylum-seekers can access a country-wide call centre for information on the services provided by UNHCR and its partners, to receive counselling and necessary referrals. The call centre is available five days a week, has 20 operators, and three interpreters for common native languages spoken by asylum seekers (Amharic, Oromo, Somali and Tigrinya).

An Interactive Voice Response (IVR) system, launched in August, offers 24/7 access to information, covering the most frequently asked questions, and is available in six languages. This ensures that all refugees contacting the hotline receive timely and relevant information in their preferred language.

During August and September, the centre received a total of 21,186 calls—9,681 in August and 11,505 in September — from people seeking support. Between the two months, the proportion of female callers rose from 36% to 44%, and GBV-related referrals increased sharply from 137 in August to 189 in September. Referrals for education also more than doubled, driven by the start of the new academic year. Most requests came from Sudanese nationals, with needs assessments, registration, and health inquiries remaining the most common reasons for contact. Seventeen families were reunited, and the call centre guided over 7,700 unregistered cases seeking assistance with registration. Since the beginning of the year the call centre has responded to 162,467 calls, of which 112,972 escalated to the operators.



STORY OF THE MONTH

“I just want to go outside, make friends and play without hurting my legs,” said 11-year-old Doaa, a Sudanese girl living with a mobility impairment. “Walking makes my legs bleed, and I get tired fast,” she added quietly.

Her family fled Omdurman after spending 17 months trapped under heavy fighting. “We expected death at any moment. We left only to save our lives,” her father, Mohammad Tijani, said. They arrived in Libya with nothing, and Doaa’s condition worsened without access to her regular medication or physiotherapy. Walking now causes wounds on her legs, and the pain keeps her awake at night.

In August, Mohammad brought her to UNHCR’s office in Tripoli, where Doaa received a wheelchair. The support is helping her move safely, reach medical care, and regain a sense of normalcy.

“It will lighten the load a bit,” he said quietly. “I can take her to the doctor. I can move her without needing taxis we cannot afford. It will change her day. Maybe even her spirit.”

UNHCR/ Ziyad Alhamadi



CHILD PROTECTION

- As part of the “Back to School” campaign during September, [UNHCR distributed school kits](#) to refugee and host community children across several locations in Libya. A total of 2,849 school kits were provided to refugee children in Ajdabiya, Almarj, Benghazi, Sabha, Tobruk and 224 to children from the Libyan host community. In the West of Libya, [UNHCR distributed 1,355 school bags](#) to refugee and Libyan children in Misrata, and Tripoli. In total UNHCR is distributing school bags to 6,000 children and the remaining bags are scheduled for distribution during the first week of the school year in October. Each bag contains notebooks, colouring pencils, regular pencils and pens, an eraser and pencil sharpener, and a reusable water bottle, helping children start the year with confidence.
- However, shortly after the Libyan school year began, on 15 September, the Ministry of Education issued a decree preventing non-Libyan students from enrolling in public and private Libyan schools for the academic year 2025/2026 unless they hold a valid legal residency permit. Non-Libyan students without such permits had three months to regularize their legal status. A similar decree was issued by the Ministry of Education in the East on 22 September. Only Palestinian students were exempted from both decrees. The process to obtain the necessary documents requires a Libyan sponsor and significant costs. This has resulted in overcrowding in Sudanese schools, such as in Ajdabiya where 1,000 children enrolled in one school. During the months of August and September 2,143 out-of-school refugee children were identified and referred to Bayti centres run by UNICEF for further support. This number is significantly high and a direct impact from the education decrees making access to schools more difficult for refugee children. .



At the Sudanese School in Tripoli, UNHCR meets refugee students and teachers as part of ongoing efforts to support access to education for refugee children.

UNHCR/ Ziyad Alhamadi



COMMUNITY SUPPORT

- Since the suspension of INGO activities in Tripoli, the Community Day Centre (CDC) managed by CESVI has been closed and subsequently replaced by the Community Support Centre (CSC). Opened in September, the CSC now serves as the main venue for community-based activities, including a child friendly space, and assistance with local partners LibAid and Moomken. Partner staff received comprehensive training covering the core principles and operational structure of the centre ensuring they were prepared and aware of their roles and responsibilities.
- The Child-Friendly Space (CFS) at UNHCR's Registration Centre continues to provide a place for children to play and find a brief reprieve from the trauma of displacement. In August and September, 1,679 refugee children participated in activities fostering a safe and supportive environment. So far this year, 6,841 children have benefited from structured and unstructured sessions at UNHCR's Registration Centre and, previously, at the CDC.



UNHCR conducts training in Tripoli for its national partners, LibAid and Moomken, on used systems and online platforms under the CSC pilot phase.

📷 UNHCR/ Alkelani Elmeliti



DURABLE SOLUTIONS

- A key priority for UNHCR is securing durable solutions for vulnerable refugees, including evacuation, resettlement, and complementary pathways. In August and September, 199 women, men, girls and boys departed on resettlement (181) and family reunification (17) totalling 862 refugees who have been provided with durable solutions, including evacuation (344 individuals), resettlement (484 individuals), and complementary pathways (34 individuals) since January.
- On 10 September 2025, a group of 105 refugees departed Libya for the Emergency Transit Centre in Romania, where they will undergo further processing by resettlement countries. The group was submitted for resettlement by UNHCR, with departures facilitated by IOM.

FIELD OPERATIONS



Shelter and Non-Food Items (NFIs)

- Many refugees arrive in Libya with little more than the clothes they are wearing. During **August** and **September**, UNHCR and partners LibAid and LRC provided 9,701 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. 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 September, UNHCR and its partners had reached 80,368 individuals, including 59,945 Sudanese refugees and 8,551 members of the host community, with essential items.



UNHCR and LibAid distribute essential relief items to newly arrived Sudanese refugees in Alkufra, helping families meet their immediate needs. 📷 UNHCR



Health Assistance

- With the aim of expanding access to health services and fostering inclusive community engagement, UNHCR's local partner, Libyan Red Crescent (LRC), conducted 160 community consultation assessments across Libya in Alkufra, Ajdabiya, Az-Zawiyah, Benghazi, Tobruk, and Tripoli focusing on hygiene practices, promoting mental well-being, and providing information on available health services. These sessions aim to strengthen community knowledge on essential health issues, and to provide a platform for communities to discuss challenges and priority needs, ensuring that their voices directly inform healthcare planning and service delivery.

ISLAMIC DEVELOPMENT BANK CONTRIBUTION IN LIBYA



At the Islamic Development Bank Group Day in Tripoli on 23 September, UNHCR's Chief of Mission, Karmen Sakhr, highlighted the support from the Islamic Development Bank to strengthen health services in eastern Libya — benefiting both the Libyan community and Sudanese refugees and will have an impact on so many lives in Libya.

Watch the video:

<https://www.facebook.com/share/v/1FbQr7U3nc/>
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On 19 August, **UNHCR Libya received a delegation from the United Kingdom at its Registration Centre in Tripoli.** The visit included briefings on registration, protection services, and ongoing humanitarian assistance, as well as discussions on the needs of refugees and the importance of sustained support.

 UNHCR/ Ziyad Alhamadi

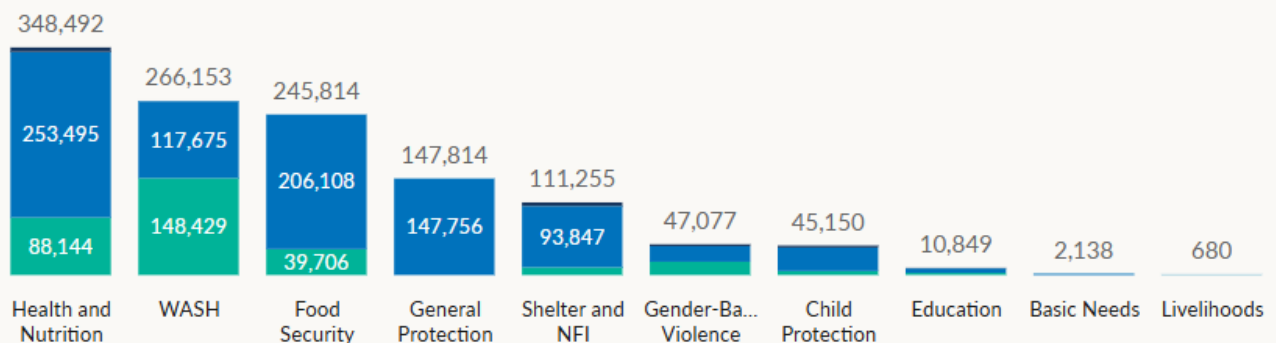


Coordination

- 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. At the end of October 2025, Libya's RRP remains critically underfunded, with only 24% (\$25.5 million) of the required \$106.6 million secured. This substantial 76% gap (\$81 million) hinders efforts to deliver essential services to the 621,000 individuals targeted for humanitarian assistance.
- The funding situation across sectors reveals significant disparities. Protection is better funded with 70% of its requirements met, primarily driven by registration activities, which are comparatively well-supported relative to other protection sub-sectors such as GBV (17%) and Child Protection (18%). Even within Protection, registration activities are better funded than other priorities, such as case management, MHPSS, and access to documentation. By contrast, Education is the least funded sector, with only 4% of its requirements covered, leaving critical gaps in service provision. Livelihoods and WASH are also severely underfunded, at just 7% and 17% respectively. Health and Nutrition and Food Security are supported at just 23% and 28%, respectively.
- By the end of September, RRP partners delivered 1,225,422 services to Sudanese refugees, host communities and third country nationals across Libya.

Assistance Delivered by Sector

Implementation: ● Host Community ● Sudanese ● Third Country Nationalities TCNs



UNHCR PARTNERS



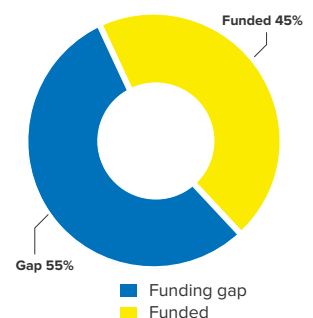
FUNDING INFORMATION

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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