

Libya

Operational Update

31 December 2025

Halima (35), a Sudanese refugee, sits with her children at the Jugurtine Medical Centre in Tripoli as they prepare for a UNHCR-supported humanitarian evacuation flight to Italy.  UNHCR/ Ziyad Alhamadi



108,455

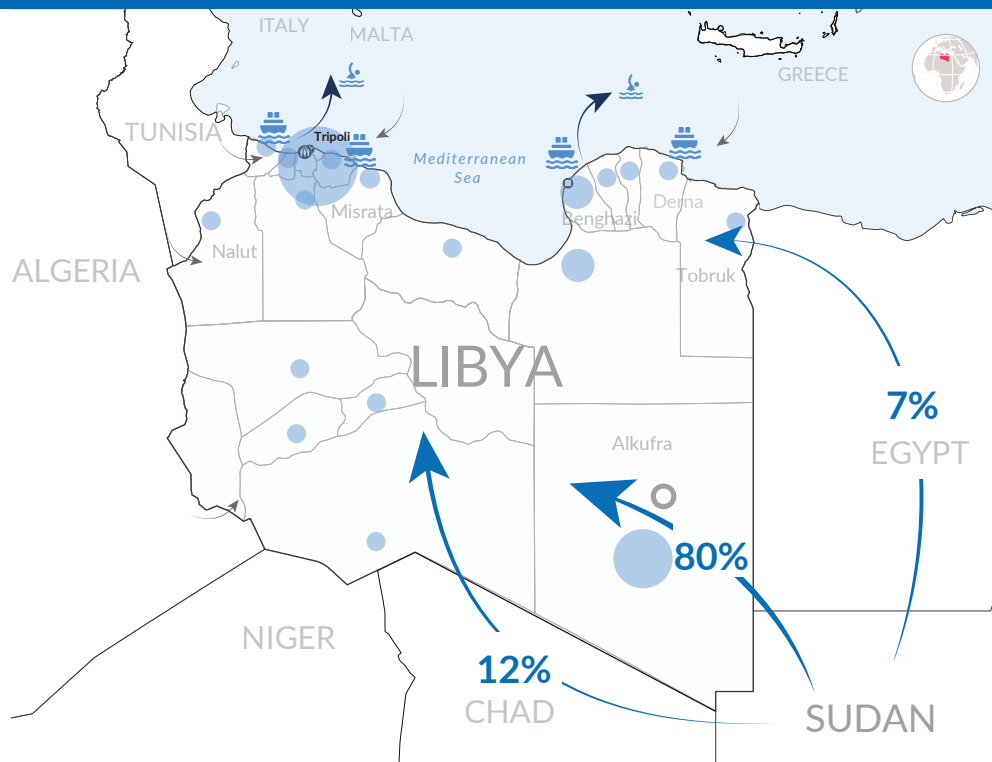
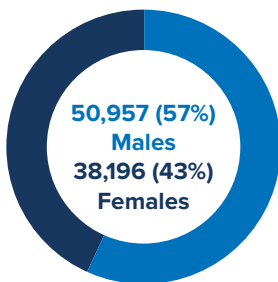
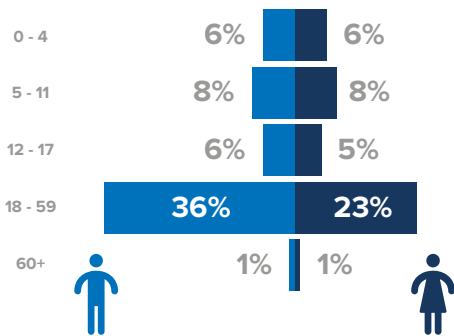
registered with UNHCR in Tripoli.











82% are Sudanese refugees
8% are Eritrean refugees
5% are Syrian refugees
6% other refugees²

Sudanese Refugees

89,153

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



 Country office	 Mantika Boundary	 Onward movement of Sudanese
 Field Office	 Sudanese Population	 Rescue at sea / Interception
 National Capital	 Arrival of Sudanese	 Expulsion
 UNHCR Presence		

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
108,455	89,153	Refugees registered at UNHCR's Registration Centre in Tripoli
16,222	9,374	Refugees who received tailored protection services
163	1	Refugees relocated from detention centres to the urban setting following UNHCR's advocacy
27,116	2,675	People rescued at sea
1,637	804	Refugees who departed Libya safely on durable solutions
116,533	88,663	Refugees and host communities who received core relief items and hygiene kits
13,260	8,154	Medical consultations provided (including in primary health in the urban settings, detention centres and disembarkation points) and cases assisted through the medical hotline
4,785	3,740	Refugees who received cash or vouchers

OPERATIONAL CONTEXT

On 2 December, Minister of Interior Emad Al-Trabelsi outlined Libya's position on migration during a [press conference](#), framing the issue as a major political, economic, and security challenge. He underscored that Sudanese nationals are exempt from the "National Deportation Programme" unless their embassy formally requests repatriation, citing the ongoing conflict in Sudan. He also presented maritime interception figures for 2025, linking irregular migration to organized crime and security risks, and calling for substantial international support.

In parallel with these developments, [in Benghazi, the East based Libyan Foreign Minister Abdelhadi Al-Huwajj chaired the inaugural meeting of a newly established committee](#) tasked with regularising the legal status of Sudanese nationals in Eastern Libya. The meeting, held at the Foreign Ministry headquarters in Benghazi on 14 December 2025, was convened pursuant to Government Decision No. 233 and Ministerial Decision No. 187 of 2025. The committee is mandated to address residency and employment issues affecting Sudanese nationals in both the public and private sectors, and to establish legal and administrative frameworks in line with Libyan regulations and health standards.



PROTECTION

- As the situation for refugees in Libya becomes harder, people continue to risk the perilous journey across the Mediterranean. Increased maritime monitoring by the Libyan Coast Guard has contributed to a rise in interceptions and rescues at sea. In December, 1,606 people had been intercepted or rescued, bringing the total to 26,940 since the start of the year, compared to 21,640 during the same period in 2024. Additionally, by the end of 2025, a total of 183 dead bodies had been recovered from Libyan waters.
- The security situation in the border triangle remains static, with a strong military presence continuing to block civilian movement and cross-border access. Community members anticipate that civilian crossings will not resume in the near future due to ongoing restrictions.
- Meanwhile, Sudanese refugees continue to travel through Chad to reach Alkufra, often via Rebiana as well as from Egypt into Libya via Tobruk.



REGISTRATION

- By the end of the year, UNHCR had registered 108,455 refugees at its Tripoli registration centre, including 89,153 Sudanese nationals, representing 82% of all refugees registered with UNHCR. Registration remains a life-saving intervention, as it enables access to essential services such as tailored protection support and humanitarian assistance. It also facilitates the identification of individuals with heightened vulnerabilities, allowing for psychosocial assistance, temporary care arrangements, and, in some cases, the pursuit of durable solutions, as well as reuniting families who have been separated due to the war
- Following registration, refugees identified as most at risk are referred to UNHCR's protection desk, which provides specialized support, including psychosocial support, clothing, non-food items, and other specialized care. In December, 296 individuals were assisted, bringing the total number of refugees who have received help through the desk by year-end to 3,140.
- Registration in Alkufra, managed by the Security Registration Committee, remains costly and complex. While the official fee is 500 LYD, additional legal and notary fees raise the total cost of the Security Registration Card (SRC) to 580–650 LYD. Applicants must provide extensive documentation, including a work contract, housing attestation/proof of residency, valid ID/passport, and employer contact details, along with other documents such as proof of identity from community leaders and four personal photos. The SRC is currently the only legal document that allows Sudanese refugees to avoid detention and move freely in the East of Libya. In response to these challenges, the Sudanese community leader has engaged with the Security Registration Committee to advocate for exemptions for refugees unable to afford or fulfill the SRC requirements. These challenges have been compounded by recent security campaigns targeting individuals without an SRC, which have resulted in detention.



PROTECTION OUTREACH

- Communicating with communities helps to understand refugees' needs to inform the operational response. Since the start of the year, 244 sessions, including 16 child protection awareness sessions, were conducted, reaching over 7,000 individuals. Discussions focused on promoting personal safety, access to services, awareness of official communication channels, and knowledge of reporting mechanisms, thereby contributing to a more informed and protective environment for affected communities.
- During December, the outreach team continued efforts to strengthen community engagement and promote inclusion, with a particular focus on persons with disabilities. Key activities included four community meetings for persons with disabilities, during which 46 assistive devices ([wheelchairs and crutches](#)) were distributed to refugees. In addition, a focus group discussion was held to [commemorate](#)

the International Day of Persons with Disabilities, engaging 20 participants who shared priority protection concerns and challenges in accessing services. The team also conducted a Fraud Awareness Session for community mobilizers and carried out a school assessment visit. The assessment covered a school hosting 600 students, including two students with disabilities, underscoring the need for inclusive education measures. The visit aimed to assess the school's current condition and identify areas requiring support, such as providing desks and reducing overcrowding.



Sudanese refugees take part in a group discussion during an event marking the International Day of Persons with Disabilities in Tripoli, December 2025.

UNHCR/ Ziyad Alhamadi



CALL CENTRE

- The Call Centre continues to serve as a critical lifeline for refugees, providing trusted information on available services and guidance on how to access them. During the reporting month, the centre handled over 50,000 incoming calls through its interactive voice response (IVR) system, with operators responding to nearly 12,000 calls and addressing a wide range of protection and assistance needs.
- Requests were primarily linked to mental health and psychosocial support (MHPSS), reflecting sustained demand from both individuals and family members. Refugees from Syria also continued to contact the Call Centre to follow up on the status of previously submitted voluntary repatriation applications. In early December, the centre additionally received reports from refugees concerning the continuation of anti-refugee raids, underscoring ongoing protection concerns.
- Alongside service delivery, the Call Centre strengthened its response capacity. Operators responding to survivors of violence received specialized training on referral criteria and procedures, while the entire Complaints and Feedback Mechanism (CFM) team completed an online Protection from Sexual Exploitation and Abuse (PSEA) refresher.
- Since the beginning of the year, the Call Centre has handled nearly 300,000 calls, with close to 150,000 escalated to operators, and has facilitated over 8,000 referrals, highlighting its central role in connecting refugees to protection and assistance services.

75 YEARS OF UNHCR

UNHCR has been a vital part of the global refugee response for over 75 years, marking a significant milestone in its history. Established on 14 December 1950, UNHCR was created to assist Europeans displaced after World War II but quickly expanded its mandate to include refugees from other regions. Over the years, UNHCR has grown to support more than 122 million refugees and other forcibly displaced people worldwide, a number that has doubled in the past decade. UNHCR's work has been recognized with two Nobel Peace Prizes, reflecting its enduring impact on humanitarian efforts. UNHCR continues to play a crucial role in protecting refugees and providing them with the necessary support to rebuild their lives.

As UNHCR marks its 75th year, we recall real moments in Libya, families reunited, children receiving care, and people finding safety after long journeys of flight. **#UNHCR75**



THIS IS WHO WE ARE

Protecting People Forced to Flee

Read the full story : <https://bit.ly/4oZL6lz>



CHILD PROTECTION

- Since January 2025, UNHCR has conducted 499 Best Interest Assessments (BIAs) for vulnerable refugee children, including 48 completed in December. Based on their specific needs, children were referred to specialized services such as temporary care, while families caring for them received non-food items or cash assistance. UNHCR continues to work with 47 caregivers who collectively host 132 children under alternative care arrangements.
- Continuing these protection and referral efforts, a coordinated initiative between UNHCR and UNICEF identified 435 out-of-school Sudanese refugee children in December, who were referred to UNICEF to facilitate access to informal education, skills training, and eventual inclusion in the national education system once documentation is available. Since January 2025, this collaboration has resulted in 5,272 referrals, helping children access essential learning opportunities.
- At the same time, child-friendly activities continued at UNHCR's Registration Centre, where refugee children rely on the Child-Friendly Space (CFS) for recreation and a sense of normalcy amid displacement. Through structured and unstructured psychosocial and recreational sessions, the CFS has reached 11,116 children so far this year, providing a safe and supportive environment that helps mitigate the effects of trauma and stress.



DURABLE SOLUTIONS

- A key priority for UNHCR is securing durable solutions for vulnerable refugees, which includes evacuation, resettlement, and complementary pathways. In 2025, a total of 1,635 refugees have been provided with such solutions, comprising 466 individuals who were evacuated via the Emergency Transit Mechanism (ETM) to Rwanda and the Humanitarian Corridor to Italy, 687 who departed on resettlement, 437 Syrians were voluntary repatriated, and 45 departed through complementary pathways (such as family reunification).
- **On 18 December, 131 Syrian refugees**, men, women, and children, and on **21 December, another 162 individuals voluntarily returned home**. With these flights, 437 Syrian refugees have been assisted by UNHCR to return home since November. These returns were carried out in safety and dignity, reflecting UNHCR's commitment to providing a carefully coordinated process that prioritizes protection, dignity, and hope for the future.

HUMANITARIAN CORRIDOR TO ITALY

On 11 December 2025, **UNHCR facilitated the evacuation of 122 refugees and asylum-seekers from Libya to Italy via a humanitarian corridor**. This initiative provided a safe and legal alternative to dangerous, irregular journeys. The flight, the final evacuation of the year, landed at Rome's Fiumicino Airport, with more than half of the evacuees being children.

Upon arrival, the refugees were welcomed by Italian authorities, civil society organizations, and senior representatives from the government, UNHCR, and partner NGOs. Italian officials lauded the initiative as a model of "welcoming diplomacy," emphasizing the cooperation between state institutions, international organizations, and civil society. This programme aims to offer safe pathways for vulnerable minors and families, mitigating the risks of human trafficking and irregular migration while supporting their integration into Italian society.



Edina Slipicevic-Dziho
Deputy Chief of Mission

Watch [here](#).

FIELD OPERATIONS



Shelter and Non-Food Items (NFIs)

- Many refugees arrive in Libya with little more than what they can carry. In December, UNHCR and its partners, LibAid and LRC, distributed essential items, including mattresses, blankets, solar lamps, kitchen sets, jerrycans, and tarpaulins, to 5,481 refugees and members of host communities in various towns across Libya, such as Alkufra, Az Zawiyah, Ajdabiya, Benghazi, Jabal Al-Gharbi (Western Mountain), Misrata, Tobruk and Tripoli. These items were provided to address their most urgent needs.
- By the end of December, UNHCR and its partners had reached 116,533 individuals, including 88,663 Sudanese refugees and 14,099 host community members, all of whom received essential support.



Relief items prepared for distribution to refugees and host communities in Libya. UNHCR and partners provided essential household support to meet urgent needs.

 UNHCR/ ACTED



Health Assistance

- **UNHCR strengthened healthcare access in southern Libya by rehabilitating several clinics, and providing generators to finalize the upgrades.** These efforts, carried out with partners and local authorities, underscored UNHCR's commitment to improving essential services for both refugees and host communities.
- Building on this progress, December saw an expansion in Benghazi, where UNHCR completed and handed over three additional facilities. The Alsabri Health Facility reopened on 1 December, serving around 15,000 people, followed by **the Shebna Clinic on 8 December**, reaching over 22,000 residents. The largest project, the Buatni Polyclinic, was handed over on 21 December and is now positioned to support more than 177,000 people.
- In addition, on 19 December and in coordination with the Ministry of Health, **UNHCR delivered essential medical supplies, including gloves, sanitizers, masks, and other protective equipment, to Abu Sitta Hospital for Respiratory Medicine** and the National Centre for Disease Control. This support contributed to strengthening local health services and enhancing preparedness, benefiting thousands of patients and surrounding communities.
- Together, these rehabilitations, with upgrades to infrastructure, accessibility, and service delivery, significantly enhance healthcare services and reinforce coexistence in communities hosting displaced persons.





Also, in December in Rome, **Karmen Sakhr and Abdourouf Konde, UNHCR Regional Director for West and Central Africa, met with Italian counterparts** to express appreciation for Italy's vital support and longstanding partnership. Against growing funding and legal constraints, they highlighted the situation of over 550,000 Sudanese refugees currently in Libya and the resulting increase in irregular crossings. UNHCR underscored Italy's leadership role and encouraged continued engagement through expanded EU resettlement, and strong support for the 2026 Libya Response Plan to help stabilize the situation and protect lives.

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 December 2025, Libya's RRP remains critically underfunded, with only 28% (\$30.8 million) of the required \$106.6 million secured.
- By the end of December, RRP partners delivered multi-sectoral services reaching over 182,000 Sudanese refugees, host communities and third country nationals across Libya.
- In December in Brussels, **UNHCR Libya Chief of Mission Karmen Sakhr met with EU counterparts** to thank them for assistance that has supported more than 108,000 refugees. She also drew attention to growing pressures linked to underfunding and rising Mediterranean crossings, stressing the importance of sustained EU engagement. UNHCR encouraged continued multi-year funding for Libya, expanded resettlement quotas and wider replication of successful humanitarian corridors to strengthen safe, legal pathways and uphold protection standards.

UNHCR PARTNERS

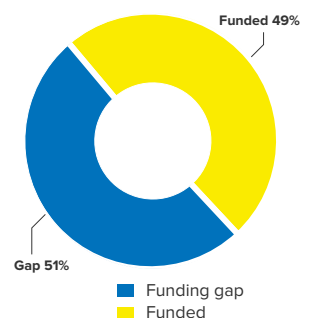


FUNDING INFORMATION

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



CONTACT: UNHCR External Relations and Public Information Unit: lbytr@unhcr.org

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