

# Libya

## Operational Update

30 November 2025

UNHCR staff assist Syrian refugee families at Mitiga Airport as they depart Libya on a voluntary return flight to Syria, part of ongoing efforts to support safe and dignified returns after years of displacement.  UNHCR/ Ziyad Alhamadi



**107,961**

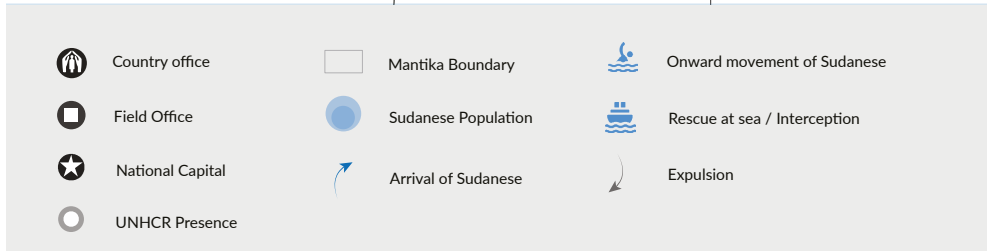
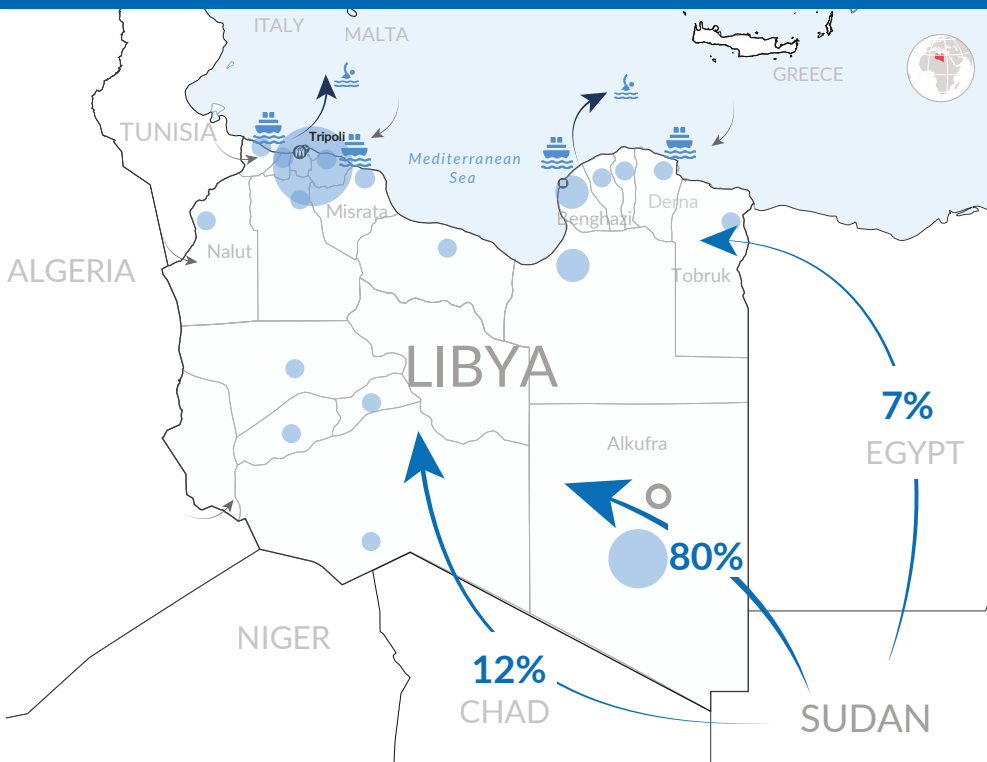
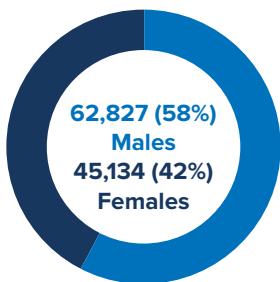
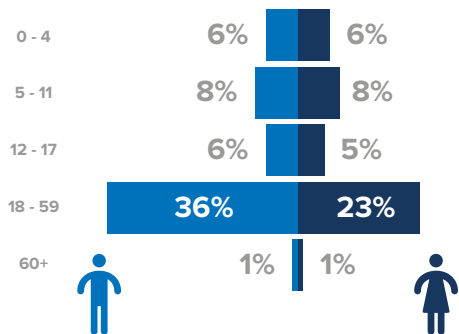
registered with UNHCR in Tripoli.

**82%** are Sudanese refugees  
**8%** are Eritrean refugees  
**5%** are Syrian refugees  
**6%** other refugees<sup>2</sup>

### Sudanese Refugees

**88,493**

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
107,961	88,493	Refugees registered at UNHCR's Registration Centre in Tripoli
13,941	7,960	Refugees who received tailored protection services
163	-	Refugees relocated from detention centres to the urban setting following UNHCR's advocacy
25,271	2,420	People rescued at sea
1,209	729	Refugees who departed Libya safely on durable solutions
98,460	76,436	Refugees and host communities who received core relief items and hygiene kits
6,710	4,136	Medical consultations provided (including in primary health in the urban settings, detention centres and disembarkation points) and cases assisted through the medical hotline
3,886	3,136	Refugees who received cash or vouchers

### OPERATIONAL CONTEXT

On 25 November, activists in Tripoli held a demonstration in front of the UNHCR office in Serraj, issuing a statement expressing concerns about the presence of refugees and migrants in Libya. Their demands included stricter controls, the suspension of registration for asylum-seekers, and the relocation or evacuation of people fleeing conflict. These calls for restrictive measures underscore the continued vulnerability of refugees in Libya and highlight the need to uphold protection principles, safeguard human rights, and ensure humane treatment for individuals seeking safety.

This protest is not an isolated incident, but part of a broader trend of rising anti-migrant sentiment in Libya, reflected in street demonstrations and online campaigns under the slogan "Go back to your country." **Public frustration has been amplified by Libya's economic and security challenges, as well as recent incidents that have fuelled demands for deportation and harsher policies.** Experts stress that migrants should not be scapegoated for systemic governance issues and call for comprehensive, rights-based migration policies that prioritize safety and dignity.

During the 6th technical meeting of the Voluntary Return Committee held on 15 November in Benghazi, the Minister of Foreign Affairs announced several measures to ease constraints for Sudanese nationals in Libya. These include waiving residency delay fees, removing barriers to school enrollment, and allowing regularization without entry stamps, while maintaining health certificate requirements. The goal of these steps is to reduce obstacles and support voluntary returns to government-controlled safe zones. UNHCR emphasized that Sudan remains the world's largest displacement crisis, with 12 million people displaced reiterating that **conditions in Sudan are not conducive for return.**



## PROTECTION

- As the situation for refugees and migrants in Libya remains difficult, 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. By the end of November, 2,428 people had been intercepted or rescued, bringing the total to 25,319 since the start of the year, compared to 20,839 during the same period in 2024. Additionally, 15 dead bodies were recovered from Libyan waters in November, bringing the total for 2025 to 182.
- These perilous sea journeys often begin with complex and shifting land routes. The closure of the direct Triangle route into Libya, due to military movement, has forced refugees onto longer and more dangerous paths. Sudanese new arrivals now rely heavily on the Chad route, though movement there is also slow and difficult. Crossing from Sudan into Chad requires longer detours to avoid Rapid Support Forces-controlled areas.
- Sudanese refugees coming from Chad travel to Libya via two main dangerous and irregular routes. Some cross into Niger, moving towards the transit hub of Agadez before entering Libya. Others enter Libya directly from Chad through border areas like Rebiana. Upon entry, movements within Libya have recently shifted, due to new restrictions, many now bypass traditional hubs like Alkufra, instead taking a new path from Rebiana through Tazirbu and Jalu toward cities like Benghazi or Tripoli. All these smuggler-controlled desert journeys are perilous, characterized by extreme climate and a severe lack of water.



## REGISTRATION


- For the thousands seeking safety, registration provides a critical lifeline. By the end of November, UNHCR had registered 107,961 refugees, including 88,493 Sudanese, at its centre in Tripoli. This process grants access to essential services such as health assistance, core relief items, and tailored protection support, from psychosocial aid to durable solutions.
- UNHCR's protection desk at the Registration Centre remains a vital support mechanism for refugees at highest risk. In November, 442 individuals were assisted. By the end of the month, a total of 2,844 refugees had been received at the desk, referred, and provided with assistance including medical care, psychosocial support, clothing, core relief items, and specialized care arrangements.
- In Alkufra, the process has resumed under the direction of the Information Security Inventory Committee of the Ministry of Interior. Registration at the Isolation Centre is open to all non-Libyans and involves blood tests and the issuance of Security Registration Cards (SRC), while the Libyan Red Crescent continues parallel health screenings and health card issuance.
- This new official procedure requires registration within one week and mandates a Libyan sponsor for those without documentation, along with a fee of 500 LYD. UNHCR is concerned these requirements will disproportionately affect Sudanese refugees without sponsors or formal living arrangements, heightening risks of detention, expulsion, and restricted service access.
- In practice, uptake of the new SRC remains low. Community focal points report many residents have not obtained the card, amid rumours it is only for foreigners with jobs or businesses. Despite a declared one-week deadline, no enforcement actions have yet been taken. Consequently, Sudanese refugees continue to use their LRC health cards to leave the city toward the coast, passing through checkpoints without issue, while the implications of the new security registration remain uncertain.



## COMMUNICATION AND AWARENESS

- The outreach team continued its efforts to strengthen community engagement and better understand the evolving needs of refugees and host community members. Over the course of the month, three Focus Group Discussions (FGDs) were conducted, reaching a total of 25 participants representing diverse backgrounds and experiences. Across the FGDs, participants remained eager to express their concerns and contribute to shaping more responsive support mechanisms. Many highlighted ongoing barriers related to access to services, communication gaps, and limited awareness of available assistance channels. The discussions underscored the need for tailored support for vulnerable groups.
- A total of 123 sessions were conducted overall, including 12 child protection awareness sessions and 111 Communications with Communities (CwC) sessions delivered since the beginning of 2025. Collectively, these sessions reached 7,226 individuals, comprising 201 children who participated in child protection awareness sessions and 6,895 individuals reached through CwC activities. The interventions focused on promoting personal safety, access to services, awareness of official communication channels, and knowledge of reporting mechanisms, contributing to a more informed and protective environment for affected communities.
- One of the key sessions this month brought together seven community mobilizers of mixed nationalities, who shared concerns emerging from their respective communities. The discussion centered on protest-related frustrations, access to services, and growing tension around perceived inequities. Mobilizers raised issues linked to old files, feelings of unfair treatment in assistance, and difficulties accessing medical care. They also reported communication challenges, particularly language barriers when interacting with Hotline 1504. In response, UNHCR provided detailed counseling, clarified operational limitations, explained ongoing reassessment and prioritization processes, and reinforced proper communication channels. This exchange not only addressed misinformation but also helped mobilizers feel more equipped to support and guide their communities.
- In addition, a dedicated session was held with around eight Sudanese women caregivers currently hosting children and individuals with specific needs. Their testimonies highlighted significant challenges related to medical access, education gaps, financial strain, and safety concerns within their households. Many caregivers described the emotional and logistical burden of managing trauma cases, autism, and chronic medical conditions without sufficient support systems. Despite these difficulties, the women expressed strong humanitarian motivation to continue caring for vulnerable individuals but emphasized that additional assistance is essential for maintaining safe and stable environments. UNHCR acknowledged their crucial role, offered counseling, and clarified referral pathways for specialized cases. This session brought to light the growing pressure on informal caregivers and the need to strengthen targeted support.
- Furthermore, during November, the call centre handled 51,441 calls through the Interactive Voice Response service (IVR), of which 12,030 escalated to operators. The call centre recorded that inquiries from Syrian refugees regarding VHR appointments remained high. It also received numerous calls concerning raids taking place in Zuwarah during the third week of November.
- The UNHCR call centre further recorded a significant number of calls, mainly from women residing in Tobruk who have been in Libya for years, all requesting UNHCR registration appointments. On 3 November, the UNHCR team conducted specialized training for call centre operators concerning Cash Assistance and counseling to callers regarding all cash-related inquiries.




Call centre operators attend a training session on cash assistance and counselling at the call centre in Tripoli.  UNHCR/ Moomken



## CHILD PROTECTION

- Since January 2025, UNHCR has conducted 487 Best Interest Assessments (BIAs) for vulnerable refugee children, including 30 completed in November. Depending on their specific needs, children were referred to specialized services such as temporary care, while families caring for them received core relief items or cash assistance. UNHCR continues to work with 50 caregivers who collectively host 127 children under alternative care arrangements.
- In November, 601 out-of-school Sudanese refugee children were identified and referred to UNICEF through a coordinated effort between UNHCR and UNICEF to facilitate access to informal education, skills training, and eventual inclusion in the national education system when documentation is available. Since January 2025, this collaboration has resulted in a total of 4,737 referrals.
- Throughout November, the Community Support Centre (CSC), operated by UNHCR partners Moomken and LibAid, provided essential services to refugees and asylum-seekers, including voucher distribution, child-friendly space activities, and protection needs assessments. A total of 817 individuals received support during the month, with Sudanese refugees (668 individuals, 82%) representing the vast majority of those assisted. This highlights the CSC's expanding role in meeting the needs of displaced populations.
- Among those supported, 553 individuals received vouchers or other cash-based interventions, 203 participated in awareness sessions and focus group discussions, and 61 underwent protection needs assessments conducted by dedicated caseworkers. These activities form a core component of the CSC's efforts to identify urgent needs, prioritize vulnerable individuals, and ensure that protection criteria are consistently applied.



UNHCR distributes school bags to Sudanese refugee children attending non-formal education at the Baity Centre in Alkufra.  UNHCR



 UNHCR/ Aml Albarghouti

Child-friendly activities also continued at UNHCR's Registration Centre, where refugee children availed the Child-Friendly Space (CFS) for recreation and an escape from the trauma of displacement. Through structured and unstructured psychosocial and recreational sessions, the CFS has reached 10,137 children so far this year, providing a safe and supportive environment that helps mitigate the effects of trauma and stress.

## VOLUNTARY RETURN TO SYRIA

On 13 November, after 14 years of displacement, **91 Syrian refugees** in Libya voluntarily returned home with UNHCR support, the first in a series of return flights planned over the next 15 months in coordination with national authorities.

The second flight took place on 20 November, facilitating the voluntary repatriation of **53 Syrian refugees**. Similar flights will continue as part of UNHCR's ongoing efforts to ensure safe and dignified returns for those wishing to go back to Syria.

Watch: [here](#).



**KARMEN SAKHR**  
UNHCR Chief of Mission



## DURABLE SOLUTIONS

- Based on the findings of an intention to return survey, conducted from 17 July to 7 August, for Syrian refugees registered with UNHCR, 315 households expressed interest in returning to Syria. Following a phone verification exercise, and interviews to conduct counselling and to ensure voluntariness and document consent, a manifest was prepared to facilitate the return of 144 Syrians in November. The manifest was shared with relevant authorities and humanitarian partners to ensure verification, coordination, and logistical arrangements, including travel documentation, medical screening, and reception planning in Syria.
- On 5 November, UNHCR met with the Syrian Consul and a representative from Syria's Ministry of Foreign Affairs to discuss procedures for passport renewals and Laissez-Passer issuance for individuals without valid documents, including children born in Libya.



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It's time to go home.

Among those returning was Samer, his wife, and two children, one of many stories behind these flights. After fleeing Homs during the war and spending 14 years in Libya, moving between several cities to find safety, Samer worked tirelessly to provide stability for his family. When conditions improved in Syria, he registered for voluntary return and, after months of anticipation, received confirmation. For Samer, this journey marks the end of years of hardship and the beginning of rebuilding life in his homeland, carrying gratitude for the kindness he experienced in Libya and hope for Syria's future.

Read his story: [here](#).

## FIELD OPERATIONS



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


- Many refugees arrive in Libya with little more than the clothes they are wearing. **In November, UNHCR, together with partners LibAid and LRC, distributed essential items** to address immediate needs, including mattresses, blankets, solar lamps, kitchen sets, jerrycans, tarpaulins, winter clothing, plastic sheets, footwear, and sleeping mats.
- A total of 10,568 refugees and host community members were reached in towns across Libya, including Alkufra, Benghazi, Qubba, Shahat, Tobruk, Tripoli, and Ubari, with a focus on urgent basic needs during the winter season.
- By the end of November, UNHCR and its partners had reached 109,316 individuals with essential items, including 83,977 Sudanese refugees and 11,793 members of the host community.



### Health Assistance

- Since the suspension of INGO activities in mid-March, UNHCR had been unable to address the health needs in detention centres. As a result of continued advocacy, and eventual government approval, since early November, the Jugurthine Medical Centre (JMC) team has resumed its work, providing medical consultations and facilitating referrals during thrice-weekly visits. These visits take place on Sundays, Tuesdays, and Thursdays, following an agreement between the Tajoura Detention Centre (DC) management and UNHCR, and are conducted in coordination with the IOM medical team. Medical referrals to public and private health facilities are managed by the UNHCR Health Unit.
- In its ongoing efforts to improve access to essential health services for both refugees and host communities, UNHCR has completed and handed over several rehabilitated healthcare facilities in southern Libya. The series of handovers began on 19 November, when UNHCR officially handed over the rehabilitated Barqa Clinic. The ceremony was attended by local authorities, clinic management, and community representatives, who expressed gratitude for the project. The clinic provides free healthcare to a large number of refugees and members of the local community.
- Building on this, UNHCR, through its partner ACTED, expanded its support in the South on 24 November over three additional rehabilitated clinics:
  - > Tawewa Clinic and Al Fjeij Clinic in Qararah Municipality
  - > Al Brik Clinic in Germa Municipality



On 20 November, UNHCR delivered electricity generators to Al Sabri Clinic to finalize its rehabilitation. The official handover ceremony for Al Sabri Clinic is scheduled for early December. These upgrades are part of UNHCR's commitment to strengthening essential services and supporting coexistence in areas hosting displaced persons.  UNHCR/ ACTED



On 11 November, **UNHCR Libya welcomed a delegation from the German Embassy for a visit to several key facilities**. The delegation toured UNHCR’s registration centre and call centre, where they learned about the vital services offered, including the call centre’s role in guiding approximately 10,000 callers each month to essential assistance provided by UNHCR and its partners.

Throughout the day, the delegation heard direct stories of survival and resilience from refugees, underscoring the importance of continued support for UNHCR’s lifesaving operations 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. By the end of November, RRP partners delivered 1,685,938 services to Sudanese refugees, host communities and third country nationals across Libya.
- On 1 November 2025, a meeting was held at the headquarters of the Department for Combating illegal Migration (DCIM) in Benghazi, attended by representatives from the Syrian Consulate and the Syrian Ministry of Foreign Affairs, in the presence of officials from the Libyan General Intelligence Service. The discussion focused on enhancing coordination between the two sides to regulate the status of Syrian nationals residing in Libya and to follow up on legal procedures for individuals lacking the required official documents. The meeting emphasized the importance of adhering to national laws and regulations to ensure the protection of rights, maintain order, and facilitate lawful residency procedures through official channels.

### UNHCR PARTNERS

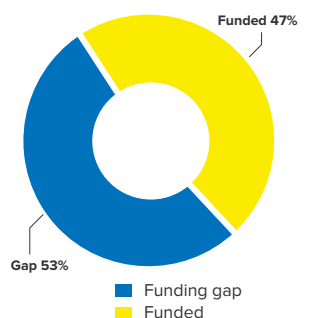


### FUNDING INFORMATION

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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