

Libya

Operational Update

31 October 2025

Children take part in a psychosocial activity at a child-friendly space in Tripoli, where UNHCR supports mental health and emotional well-being through safe, inclusive activities for refugee families.  UNHCR/ Aml Albarghouti



106,560

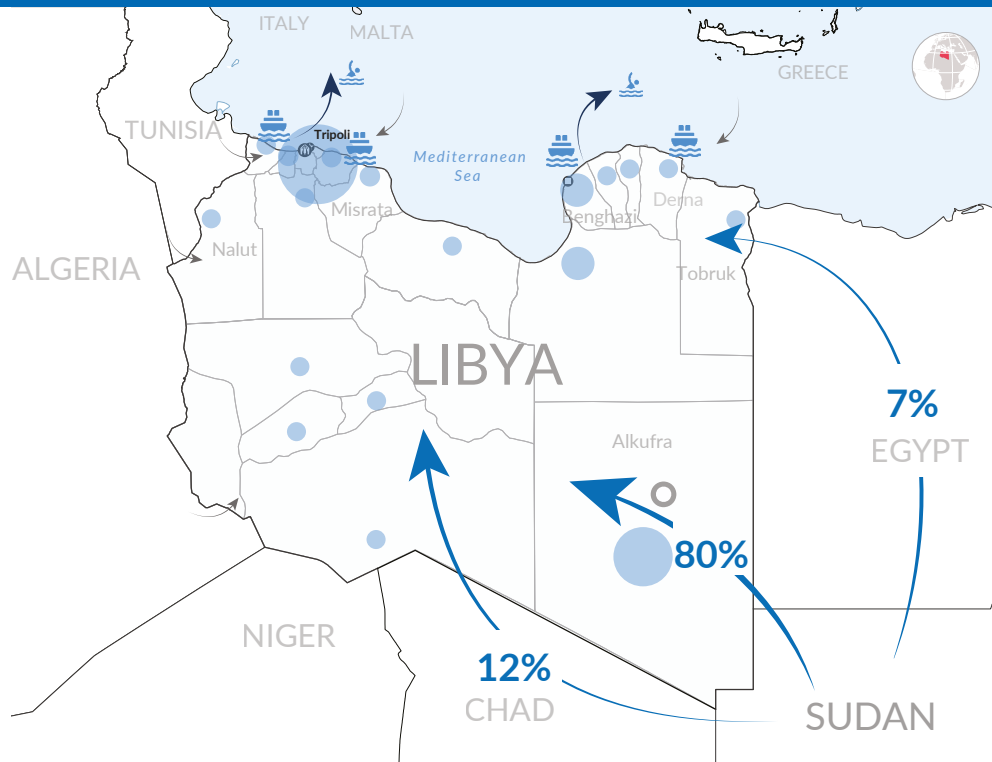
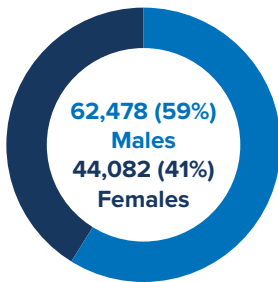
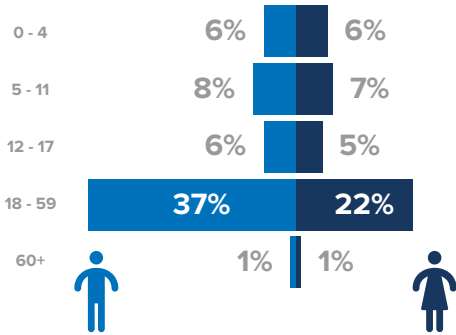
registered with UNHCR in Tripoli.











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

Sudanese Refugees

86,849

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
106,560	86,849	Refugees registered at UNHCR's Registration Centre in Tripoli
13,109	7,687	Refugees who received tailored protection services
160	-	Refugees relocated from detention centres to the urban setting following UNHCR's advocacy
20,891	2,207	People rescued at sea
873	577	Refugees who departed Libya safely on durable solutions
92,613	70,684	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
2,307	1,764	Refugees who received cash or vouchers

OPERATIONAL CONTEXT

The xenophobia campaign continues to dominate discussions among certain social media influencers and pages in Libya. Multiple Facebook groups and accounts have amplified anti-migrant rhetoric under hashtags such as [#لا_لتوطين](#) (No to Resettlement), [#ليبيا_لليبيين](#) (Libya for Libyans), and [#حقوق_الليبي_أولاً](#) (Libyan Rights First). The posts—many of which call for public mobilisation and reference national identity and sovereignty—reflect ongoing attempts to fuel negative sentiment toward migrants, refugees, and humanitarian actors. The narrative remains active across several cities, gaining traction through coordinated online messaging and repetition by public figures and unofficial pages.

This hostility spilled into the streets on 24 October, with protests in Tripoli and Misrata where demonstrators opposed refugees and migrants and international organizations. These protests were preceded by a similar protest on 15 October.

In the east, authorities in Benghazi convened a meeting on 13 October with UN agencies and NGOs to discuss potential support for the return of Sudanese nationals. The Ministry requested that agencies provide, within one month, an outline of the assistance they could offer. [UNHCR maintained its position that conditions in Sudan are not conducive for return](#), which was echoed by other agencies in the meeting.



PROTECTION

- Since April 2023, 467,000 Sudanese refugees are estimated to have arrived in Libya. This includes 67,924 individuals registered post-conflict. Authorities in Alkufra reported issuing 195,746 health certificates as of July 2025, with approximately 340,000 Sudanese arriving through Alkufra alone. Insecurity at the border in the Triangle area and increased monitoring by Libyan authorities have forced refugees to take longer and more dangerous routes via Chad from where there is a steady arrival at about 150 per day.
- As the situation for refugees and migrants 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. By the end of October, 3,140 people had been intercepted or rescued, bringing the total to 22,891 since the start of the year, compared to 19,133 during the same period in 2024. Additionally, 22 dead bodies were recovered from Libyan waters in October, bringing the total for 2025 to 167.



REGISTRATION

- By the end of October, UNHCR had registered 106,560 refugees, including 86,849 Sudanese, at its registration centre in Tripoli. Registration remains a lifesaving activity that provides access to essential services such as health assistance, core relief items (CRIs), and tailored protection support. This includes identifying the most at-risk cases for psychosocial aid, arranging temporary care, and, in some instances, offering durable solutions
- Earlier expectations that the Security Registration Card process would restart in October at the Alkufra Isolation Centre, where offices had already been prepared, did not materialize, and the process remains on hold. In the meantime, the Libyan Red Crescent (LRC) continues to issue health cards to newly arrived Sudanese refugees. These cards allow freedom of movement within Alkufra and help protect refugees from detention or deportation.



“

Beyond numbers, these services often translate into life changing moments for families. They represent hope and safety. When Zubaida, a 26 year-old mother of two, fled Zamzam camp under shelling, she lost her brothers, was shot three times, and became separated from her husband, Ahmed. She arrived in Tripoli with her two children, carrying nothing but fear.

UNHCR began family tracing, and through the process, staff discovered that Ahmed had recently registered separately in Libya. They were able to bring the family together again. **“I am so happy beyond words that we are reunited,”** Zubaida said. **“I didn’t think I would ever see him again.”** **“This is the best surprise of my life,”** Ahmed said emotionally. A moment of protection and pure relief.

 UNHCR/ Aml Albarghouti



COMMUNICATION AND AWARENESS

- Since January 2025, UNHCR has conducted over 164 awareness-raising sessions, engaging 7,057 refugees from Eritrea, Ethiopia, Palestine, Somalia, South Sudan, Sudan, and Syria. These sessions covered a range of topics, including available services, official communication channels, identifying and reporting fraud, awareness for children under the community-based care arrangement programme (CBCA) program, and awareness for the caregivers.
- Building on these efforts, during October the outreach team facilitated five focus group discussions (FGDs) with 37 participants representing caregivers, community mobilizers, single men, and single women. These engagements provided direct insight into challenges related to healthcare access, documentation barriers, discrimination in education, mental health needs, and frustrations regarding durable solutions, while also enabling immediate support through information-sharing, counselling, and distribution of essential items.
- Furthermore, during October, the call centre handled 68,515 calls through the Interactive Voice Response service (IVR), of which 10,967 escalated to operators. This surge coincided with widespread reports of raids, forced evictions, and homelessness, particularly in Tripoli and western Libya, as well as increased demand for education, support to survivors of abuse and violence, and mental health support.
- Since the beginning of 2025, the call centre has processed 202,399 calls in total, with 125,768 escalated to operators and 6,794 referrals issued throughout the year, reflecting the continued reliance of refugees and asylum-seekers on the hotline as a critical access point for counselling, information, and service referral.



A focus group discussion with refugees at the Registration Centre in Tripoli, creating space to share concerns and access information and support.

UNHCR/ Aml Albarghouti

STORY OF THE MONTH

When Home Is Not a Place, But a Mother

When war reached their neighbourhood in South Darfur, Hamza's childhood was shattered. Violence forced his family to flee, leaving them separated from loved ones and carrying deep emotional scars. His two brothers went missing. For months, fear followed him everywhere.

When the family arrived in Libya in October 2023, Hamza's mother Masara focused on one thing: keeping her children safe. "My biggest fear was losing them too," she says. But safety alone was not enough. Loud noises triggered panic in Hamza, and nightmares disrupted his sleep. "He holds his chest and tells me he is afraid his heart will stop," she recalls. "I hold him and say, 'I am here. No one will hurt you.'"

Through UNHCR-supported Child-Friendly Spaces, Hamza began receiving psychosocial support in a safe and structured environment. There, he was able to play, express himself, and slowly rebuild a sense of normalcy alongside other children who had experienced similar trauma. With time and support, his mother noticed small but meaningful changes—better sleep, moments of calm, and the return of a child's laughter.

Despite exhaustion and uncertainty, Masara remains Hamza's strongest source of comfort. "Even when I am tired or afraid, I must be strong," she says. "Because my children take their strength from me."

Hamza's story highlights the importance of child protection and psychosocial services, and the vital role caregivers play in helping children recover from the invisible wounds of war.





CHILD PROTECTION

- Since January 2025, UNHCR has conducted 443 Best Interest Assessments (BIAs) for vulnerable refugee children, including 94 completed in October. 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 October, 706 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 4,136 referrals. Complementing these efforts, UNHCR continued distributing school bags to Sudanese refugee children enrolled in non-formal education programmes in Alkufra, with 2,600 school bags already distributed in the eastern region. A further distribution to 200 Sudanese children is planned to take place in early November following the receipt of their enrollment list.
- Throughout October, the newly established Community Support Centre (CSC), operated by UNHCR partners Moomken and LibAid in Tripoli, provided essential services to refugees and asylum-seekers, including voucher distribution, child-friendly space activities, and protection needs assessments. A total of 375 individuals received support during the month, with Sudanese refugees (316 individuals, 84%) representing the majority of those assisted.
- Among those supported, 171 individuals received vouchers or other cash-based interventions, 27 participated in awareness sessions and focus group discussions, and 80 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.
- Child-friendly activities also continued at UNHCR's Registration Centre, where refugee children relied 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 8,773 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, including evacuation, resettlement, and complementary pathways. This year, 873 refugees have been provided with such solutions: 344 individuals through evacuation, 493 through resettlement, and 36 through complementary pathways.
- 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 will be shared with relevant authorities and humanitarian partners to ensure verification, coordination, and logistical arrangements, including travel documentation, medical screening, and reception planning in Syria.
- Evacuation flights to the ETM in Niger have remained suspended since May 2023, and the last flight to Rwanda departed in April 2025 with 137 very vulnerable refugees and asylum-seekers. Throughout 2025, slow resettlement departures have also contributed to delays. In addition, a new Rwandan requirement to confirm 2026 resettlement quotas before receiving new arrivals means that available spaces cannot be filled until quotas are formally announced.

- As a result, evacuation flights remain on hold until quotas are issued. Approximately 300 places are expected to become available at the ETM as refugees depart to resettlement countries, which is equivalent to two evacuation flights, and UNHCR has already completed the required steps to compile a pre-manifest in preparation for an eventual flight.

FIELD OPERATIONS



Shelter and Non-Food Items (NFIs)

- Many refugees arrive in Libya with little more than the clothes they are wearing. **In October, UNHCR and partners LibAid and LRC provided essential items**, such as mattresses, blankets, solar lamps, kitchen sets, jerrycans, and tarpaulins, to 9,184 refugees and members of host communities in towns across Libya, including Alkufra, Benghazi, Qubba, Shahat, Tobruk, and Tripoli, to help cover their most immediate needs.



UNHCR staff distribute essential relief items to refugees in Alkufra, supporting their most immediate needs.

 UNHCR

- By the end of October, UNHCR and its partners had reached 92,613 individuals, including 70,684 Sudanese refugees and 10,057 members of the host community, with essential items.



Health Assistance

- In Benghazi, UNHCR's Public Health team met with the Ministry of Health and the authority for Mental Health and Psychosocial Support (MHPSS) to strengthen coordination on health-related interventions. The team could also participate in a health awareness session organized by the Libyan Red Crescent (LRC), which included representatives from women and child empowerment groups within the Sudanese community. In addition, UNHCR provided capacity-building sessions for the LRC team in Benghazi, aimed at enhancing staff understanding of community-based health approaches and reinforcing operational skills to improve service delivery.



During Breast Cancer Awareness Month, UNHCR and the Libyan Red Crescent lead a health awareness session for Sudanese refugee women in Ajdabiya.

 UNHCR/ LRC

- In observance of Breast Cancer Awareness month, the UNHCR-LRC health team conducted a focused awareness session targeting women from the Sudanese refugee community, emphasizing the importance of early detection and self-care. Participants were guided on identification of early warning signs, and available referral pathways for screening.

WORLD FOOD DAY

“When you give food to someone, it plants mercy in their heart.”

On #WorldFoodDay UNHCR pays tribute to Ma'edat Al-Rahman initiative in Alkufra where Libyan citizens & refugees serve 600+ daily meals to families in need.

Watch: [here](#).



On 13 October, a **Swedish delegation from Amman and Tunis visited Libya** where they met refugees, and observed operations. A focus group with Sudanese single mothers and women highlighted protection challenges, including legal and residency issues, evictions, limited healthcare and education access, and risks linked to smuggling. Personal stories underscored the urgent need for continued support.



On 22 October, **the new Dutch Ambassador visited UNHCR's registration centre in Tripoli** and discussed key operational challenges, including operational constraints caused by the suspension of INGO activities and the limited availability of durable solutions.

Coordination

- UNHCR leads the Inter-Agency Response for the Regional Refugee Response Plan targeting 621,000 refugees and host communities. 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.
- By the end of October, RRP partners delivered 1,566,189 services to Sudanese refugees, host communities and third country nationals across Libya.

UNHCR PARTNERS

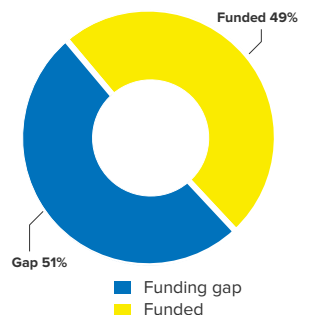


FUNDING INFORMATION

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.

US\$ 61.5 million

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



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

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