

Flash Update

June 2024



Key figures:

4,242 people evacuated from Libya to Niger since November 2017

2,355 people evacuated from Libya to Rwanda since September 2019

Niger:

6,287 people departed on resettlement / complementary legal pathways from Niger

Among them:

4,084 evacuees from Libya

2,203 refugees registered in Niger

303 evacuees currently remaining in Niger

Among them:

58 refugees pending departure

91 interviews/decisions pending by third countries

Rwanda:

1,751 refugees departed on resettlement

15 people departed through complementary legal pathways from Rwanda

654 people currently remaining in Rwanda

Among them

96 people pending departure and pre-departure formalities

301 interviews/decisions pending by third countries

Emergency Transit Mechanism (ETM)

The ETMs in Niger and Rwanda have offered safe transit for over 6,500 vulnerable people registered with UNHCR Libya since their establishment.

The aim of the ETMs is to identify durable solutions such as resettlement and other complementary legal pathways with financial support from the EU and resettlement pledges by EU Member States and others.

Libya: in June, the number of asylum-seekers, refugees, and migrants held in official detention centres accessible by UNHCR and partners increased to about 4,100 people (1,066 of whom are from the nine nationalities UNHCR registers in Libya), since May 2024, due to multiple security operations in Tripoli. The number of people reported as rescued or intercepted at sea and returned to Libya in the first half of 2024 increased to over 9,000 in 113 rescue-at-sea operations. UNHCR and its partner, the International Rescue Committee, are continuing protection monitoring and the provision of humanitarian and medical assistance at accessible disembarkation points.

Niger: in June, UNHCR facilitated departures for 36 people from the ETM Centre in Niger and from the Emergency Transit Centre (ETC) in Romania. These departures included 22 evacuees, 19 of whom departed from Romania to the Netherlands, and three from Niger to Canada. 14 Niger-registered refugees also left Niger for resettlement, including 10 people to the USA and four to Canada. UNHCR and its partners continued to provide lifesaving assistance and access to basic services such as water, hygiene, sanitation, health, and education to all evacuees at the ETM Hamdallaye Centre and to other refugees, asylum-seekers, and host community members at the Agadez Humanitarian Centre. To strengthen protection for at-risk children, UNHCR and its partners distributed kits of core relief items (CRIs) comprising clothes and soap to 288 children and sporting kits, including footballs, to the Agadez Humanitarian Centre. UNHCR and partners also attributed 52 completed transitional shelters to extremely vulnerable refugees and asylum-seekers in Agadez, offering them more decent and safer accommodation.

Rwanda: on 13 June, UNHCR received 113 asylum-seekers evacuated from Libya to the ETM in Rwanda. This marked the 18th evacuation flight since 2019 and the second in 2024. The asylum-seekers came from countries such as Eritrea, Ethiopia, Somalia, South Sudan, Sudan, and Côte d'Ivoire. 64 refugees were resettled from the ETM in Rwanda to Belgium, Canada, and the USA, bringing the total number of individuals in the ETM to 654 by the end of June 2024. In addition, 468 asylum-seekers and refugees, along with 38 host community members, participated in various vocational and skills training activities. These included driving lessons, hairdressing, tailoring, ICT/computer literacy, and language classes, aimed at facilitating their integration in the country of asylum and future places of residence. Critical services such as protection (including psychosocial support, assistance to people with specific needs, child protection, gender-based violence prevention and response), healthcare, water sanitation, hygiene, and cash assistance continued to be provided by UNHCR and its partners to help refugees and asylum-seekers at the ETM meet their basic needs.