LIBYA

20 June 2023

Key Figures:

134,787 Libyans currently internally displaced (IDPs)

695,516 IDP returnees

42,559 registered refugees and asylum-seekers

299 monitoring visits to detention centres so far in 2023

10 refugees and asylum-seekers were transferred from detention to urban setting so far in 2023

599 vulnerable refugees and asylum-seekers have departed

Funding

USD 70.0 M required for 2023

43% Funded

57% Gap

UNHCR UPDATE

Highlights

As part of the World Refugee Day celebrations, UNHCR and partners, hand in hand with refugees, organized several events across Libya, highlighting this year’s theme, hope away from home. On 19 June, at the Child Friendly Space in Serraj Registration Centre in Tripoli, children from different nationalities were invited to play together and enjoy activities such as drawing, face-painting, and arts and crafts. On 20 June, activities were held at the Abusliem Stadium, which was rehabilitated by UNHCR in 2021-2022 as part of the Sport for Peace Project. Refugee and internally displaced children had sessions in relation to the theme of the year, played games facilitated by partner Moomken, and food was served by refugee and IDP women as a way to share their cuisines and culture. In the Community Day Centre (CDC), partner CESVI organized sessions for the community mobilizers and caregivers to share the music, poetry, traditions, and books from their countries. In Misrata, in the shelter run by the Libyan Red Crescent, partner International Rescue Committee (IRC) brought an artist who painted a mural with the participation of refugees staying there. In line with the theme of the year, UNHCR Libya also prepared a video, highlighting the significance of solutions among the primary sources of hope for refugees.

On 12 June, more than 130 asylum-seekers and refugees left Libya for the Emergency Transit Mechanism (ETM) in Rwanda, where UNHCR will provide them with accommodation, basic necessities, medical care, psychosocial support, and language classes. The group was composed of people from different nationalities and included children at risk, survivors of violence, people with medical conditions, and survivors of trafficking. In Rwanda, UNHCR aims to help them find durable solutions such as resettlement to third countries or voluntary return where it is possible. On 15 June, UNHCR assisted the departure of 18 refugees to Canada through resettlement and complementary pathways, with logistical support from International Organization for Migration. Since 2017, UNHCR has assisted the departures of more than 10,000 individuals out of Libya and within the spirit of the World Refugee Day, UNHCR calls all countries to continue giving hope to refugees through solutions.

On 8 June, UNHCR opened a new child friendly space in its Serraj registration centre. The space, which will be run jointly with partner CESVI, provides a child-friendly environment for asylum-seeker and refugee children where they can enjoy time while interviews are being conducted with their parents.

Population Movements

So far in 2023, more than 7,400 individuals have been reported as rescued or intercepted by the Libyan authorities. During the last two weeks, ten disembarkations were carried out by the Libyan Coast Guard at Al-Shaab Port, by the Special Navy Forces at Benghazi Port, and by the Naval Support Company at Garabulli Port, with more than 1,000 survivors. Partner IRC attended to four disembarkations and provided medical assistance and non-food items (NFIs) to survivors.

UNHCR Response

UNHCR, with partners, continues to provide help and services to asylum-seekers and refugees at heightened risk. During the last two weeks, 33 best interest assessments and 112 protection needs assessments were conducted with children and adults to identify their protection concerns, and assess their needs, including referrals to specialized services. Partner CESVI provided emergency cash assistance to over 60 refugee and asylum-seeker households (more than

https://www.unhcr.org/countries/libya

1 IOM-DTM Aug 2022.
2 Data as of 1 June 2023.
130 individuals). Partner Norwegian Council (NRC) also launched the voucher distributions and distributed vouchers to more than 100 families (259 individuals). IRC distributed hygiene kits, blankets, tracksuits, slippers, soap, and jackets to over 200 individuals at the CDC. IRC also targeted more than 450 asylum-seekers and refugees, including over 100 women, with the distributions of NFIs in various areas of Tripoli.

During the last two weeks, IRC provided more than 750 general health and reproductive health consultations, around 130 mental health consultations, and referred over 60 individuals to public hospitals and private clinics. IRC medical team also supported more than 50 individuals through the 24/7 hotline, 40 of whom were referred for secondary medical assessments.

At the Serraj Registration Centre, UNHCR identified more than 60 individuals who have reportedly escaped or been released from trafficking camps. They were all referred for protection interviews to identify their needs and provide the necessary assistance. Under the community-based care arrangement programme of partner CESVI, there are currently around 50 active caregivers, hosting more than 120 cases in alternative care arrangements. During the last two weeks, while seven individuals who were identified as in need of shelter were put under care arrangements, 15 individuals were integrated within the communities.

UNHCR, in partnership with IRC and LibAid, distributed non-food items and hygiene kits to more than 1,000 detainees in Ain Zara, Shara Zawya, Ganfouda and Tobruk Detention Centres. IRC also carried out visits to Triq Al-Sikka, Ain Zara, Triq Al-Matar and Abusliem detention centres and provided more than 200 medical consultations.

The outreach team carried out two field visits to Janzour and Al Drebi areas of Tripoli, targeting more than 70 asylum-seekers and refugees including unaccompanied children and survivors of trafficking. Several individuals with specific needs were identified and referrals were made to the relevant services. A focus group discussion was held in the CDC with seven asylum-seekers and refugees from Sudan, Syria, and Palestine. The participants shared their personal experiences and views on disabilities and their impacts on access to education, transportation, information, healthcare, and protection services, as well as acceptance by the host community. The outreach team also conducted an online community meeting with 16 refugees and asylum-seekers to discuss the appointment system in Serraj Registration Centre and UNHCR’s means of communication with the communities.

In collaboration with partner LibAid, UNHCR distributed hygiene kits to more than 2,920 displaced people from Murzuq, Derna and Ejdabia. The distribution targeted more than 500 women and over 1,400 children. The distributions took place in Misrata.

Special thanks to our major donors: Canada | European Union | France | Hellenic Republic | Italy | RDPP NA | The Netherlands | United States of America