UNHCR
The UN Refugee Agency

Libya Operational Update

31 October 2024

UNHCR with the Libyan Red Crescent in Al Kufra, where essential relief items were delivered to 500 newly arrived Sudanese refugee families as part of our emergency response to the Sudan crisis.

UNHCR/ LRC

73,994

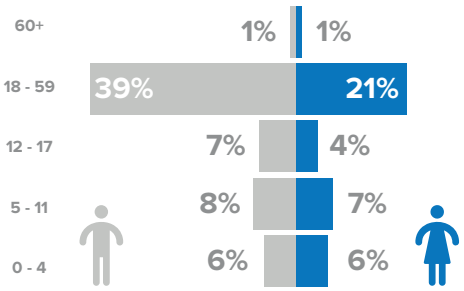
refugees registered with UNHCR in Tripoli.

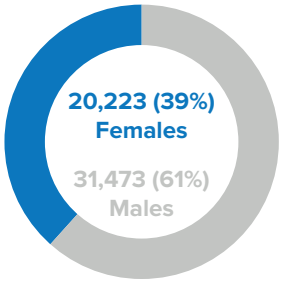
70% are Sudanese refugees
13% are Syrian refugees
11% are Eritrean refugees
6% other refugees[2]

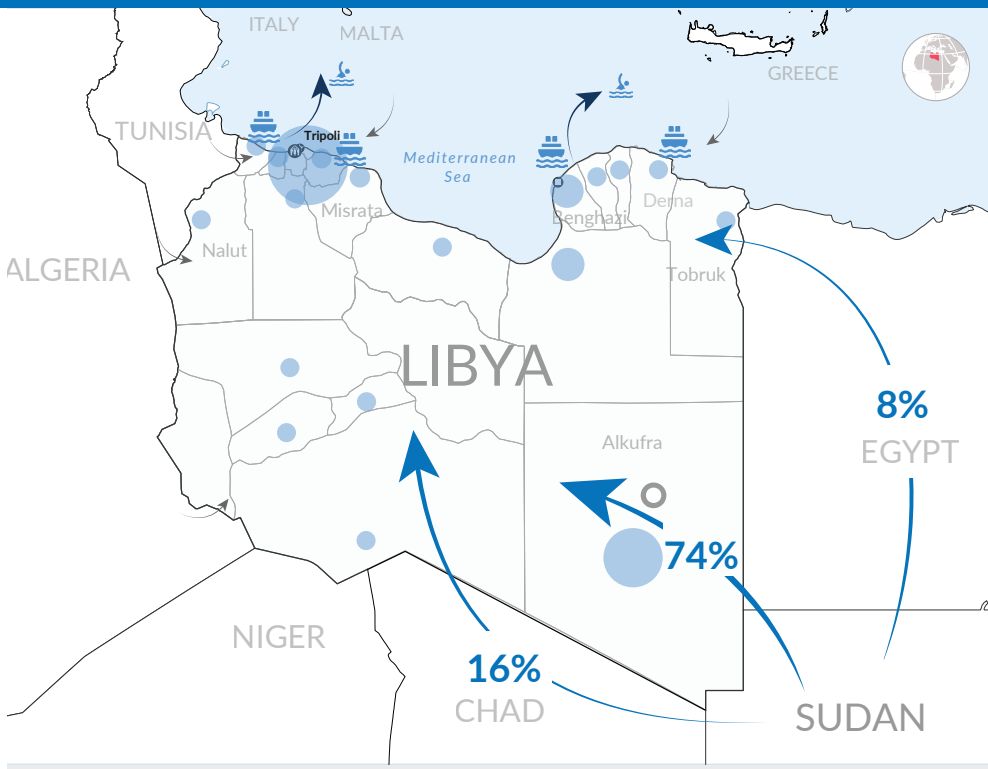
Sudanese Refugees

51,696

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







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

1. The arrival trends of Sudanese refugees is based on surveys conducted with Sudanese refugee households since the start of the conflict in April 2023.
2. UNHCR registers refugees from 9 nationalities: Eritrea, Ethiopia, Iraq, Palestine, Somalia, South Sudan, Sudan, Syria, Yemen.

HIGHLIGHTS

In 2024:

- 3,370 refugees received cash assistance
- Durable solutions found for 1,132 refugees and asylum-seekers
- 37,700 refugees reached through protection outreach activities
- 631 unaccompanied children were identified and referred for further assistance
- 59,037 calls received and processed at UNHCR's call centre
- Over 10,250 refugees, have received tailored protection services
- 18,772 refugees received medical consultations
- Two Rubb Halls and a power generator as well as laptop were handed over to authorities in support of registration of Sudanese refugees in Alkufra.

PROTECTION

- During October, daily arrivals of Sudanese refugees in Alkufra averaged around 300-400 individuals, reflecting an increase following lower numbers in early September. According to Sudanese community leaders, most Sudanese refugees who arrive in Alkufra, register with authorities when medically cleared and then proceed to move northwards in search of better livelihood opportunities. By the end of October, 102,189 Sudanese refugees were estimated to have arrived in Libya, up from 99,600 at the beginning of the month.
- Onward movements of refugees and migrants continue. In 2024, the overall number of interceptions or rescue at sea interventions has increased with 19,133 reported between January and October, compared to 13,007 during the same period in 2023. This increase can be attributed to increased maritime monitoring at sea.
- UNHCR and partners conducted 47 visits to detention centres (DCs) in October to provide life-saving assistance, including essential items such as clothes, hygiene kits and food, to individuals being held in challenging conditions. These visits are part of our ongoing commitment to address urgent humanitarian needs within detention facilities, where individuals often lack essential supplies and face harsh conditions. At the end of October, 5,591 individuals were detained of whom 13% (778) are potentially in need of international protection, for whom UNHCR continues to advocate for their release.

UNHCR visited the Women Empowerment and Development Centre in Awjela to learn about their training programmes, which include vocational training for women, including Sudanese refugees, to help them build income-generating skills.

UNHCR

REGISTRATION

- By the end of October, UNHCR has registered 51,696 Sudanese refugees at its registration centre in Tripoli, including 32,289 new Sudanese refugee arrivals since the conflict in Sudan began in April 2023. This registration enables access to essential services, including health care, core relief items, and UNHCR protection services, as well as the identification of the most-at-risk cases for targeted support and durable solutions.
- To support the registration of newly arrived Sudanese refugees in Alkufra, through national partner LibAid, **UNHCR provided a power generator and two Rubb halls to the authorities at the end of October**. A "Security Registration Card" is provided to medically cleared refugees enabling freedom of movement and access to public services and the labour market, a crucial step in delivering life-saving assistance to Sudanese refugees in Libya.

PROTECTION ASSESSMENTS

- UNHCR's protection outreach assesses and helps to address the protection needs of newly arrived Sudanese refugees, as well as refugees of various nationalities registered with UNHCR in Tripoli. These assessments found that many refugees continue to face severe living conditions, requiring urgent access to livelihoods, medical care, and protection from raids, arbitrary arrests, and prolonged detention. UNHCR has consulted over 37,700 refugees so far this year.
- In October 2024, the protection needs of 746 refugees were assessed in-depth, amounting to 6,294 refugees who have undergone protection needs assessments this year, including 4,608 Sudanese refugees.
- Outreach field and home visits help to better understand the accommodation set-up of refugees. In October in the Tripoli area, UNHCR was able to visit 72 homes and shelters of refugees (54 of which were to the Sudanese community). The assessment and home visits identified refugees with urgent needs who were referred to services like healthcare and legal counselling, and received in-kind support such as clothing, blankets, and hygiene kits. Since the beginning of 2024, UNHCR has reached 1,359 refugees (including 1,143 Sudanese refugees) in the Tripoli area with these visits.
- In Benghazi, UNHCR provided a wheelchair, kitchen sets, solar lamps, school bags, soaps, and adult diapers during home visits to 23 Sudanese refugees with specific needs.
- UNHCR's partner, CESVI, has also conducted 505 outreach visits to vulnerable refugees, providing follow-up support in areas such as GBV case management, child protection, and assistance for caregivers.
- UNHCR's partner, the International Rescue Committee (IRC), provided 3,401 CRI kits and 580 hygiene kits to 580 refugees in their homes in and around Tripoli, with 3,951 refugees reached since the beginning of the year. This personalized approach allows for a better assessment of each household's specific needs, ensuring tailored support. Delivering essential items like mattresses, blankets, and hygiene kits on-site helps refugees maintain dignity and comfort in their temporary homes.
- This month, UNHCR conducted 166 protection surveys with Sudanese refugees reaching 415 individuals assessing their travel routes, family composition, and future intentions. Half of the refugees surveyed were children of whom 30% have no access to school. 49% of those surveyed were women. 85% of the refugees came to Libya from Sudan, 9% through Chad and 5% through Egypt. 30% did not face protection incidents enroute. The 70% that did, incidents included assault (22%), trafficking (17%), smuggling (14%), robbery (12%), and detention (3%). The skillset of those surveyed included teaching (27%), administration (13%) and hospitality (13%). In 2024, UNHCR has conducted a total of 8,105 surveys reaching over 20,200 refugees of all nationalities; 14,575 are Sudanese refugees.
- From Benghazi, UNHCR has provided phone counselling to 15,057 newly arrived Sudanese refugees in eastern Libya in 2024.

IMMEDIATE PROTECTION ASSISTANCE

- The protection desk at UNHCR's registration centre receives refugees who have been identified during the registration process as very vulnerable and at heightened risk requiring targeted assistance. In October, 304 refugees, including 216 Sudanese refugees, received this type of support. Assistance provided includes cash, medical care, psychosocial support, clothing, core relief items, and care arrangements.
- A total of 10,258 refugees (including 7,047 Sudanese refugees), have received specialized case management services, such as psychosocial assistance, GBV survivor support, child protection services, and multi-purpose cash assistance. In October, 1,187 refugees (including 959 Sudanese refuges) received these services.
- During October, the Community Day Centre (CDC) provided services to 1,678 refugees, focusing primarily on medical services, protection needs assessments, and support at the Child-Friendly Space. While the CDC generally operates on an appointment basis for refugees, it also accommodated 77 walk-in cases with urgent protection concerns. Of these, 43 individuals were admitted and received immediate assistance, while the remaining cases were scheduled for follow-up appointments to ensure they receive the necessary support. Sudanese refugees continue to make most of the visitors to the CDC, with 1400 individuals during the month of October.

COMMUNITY-BASED PROTECTION

- The Common Feedback Mechanism (CFM) call centre managed 9,570 calls in October, and 59,037 calls since the start of the year.
- As part of efforts to improve communication with communities, **UNHCR held several sessions for newly arrived refugees at its Registration Centre, sharing information on how to communicate with UNHCR and partners**. The sessions covered feedback and complaint mechanisms, the various hotlines, and the online platforms where information is regularly shared. This will be a recurring activity going forward.
- UNHCR as Protection lead of the Inter-agency Task Force launched the pilot phase of the outreach Needs Assessment for Refugees in Emergencies (NARE) for the Sudan Response in Tripoli and Benghazi's urban areas. NARE, is an outreach tool designed to collect information on the needs, challenges, and other trends encountered by Sudanese refugees who fled their country due to the conflict. During orientation, UNICEF, DRC, and NRC partners joined UNHCR for three outreach visits. The aim of using NARE is to identify common needs of newly arrived refugees and to inform programme design.

UNHCR visited a Sudanese family in Janzour as part of the NARE pilot to assess the needs of refugees who fled conflict in Sudan.
UNHCR/ Alkelani Elmeliti

- Between 15 and 17 October, UNHCR visited the cities of Jalu, Awjela, and Ejkhera in Al-Wahat region (approximately 400 kilometres south of Benghazi) to assess needs, engaging with local authorities, community leaders, Sudanese refugees, and civil society organizations. Discussions included refugees' access to in the labour market and the need for additional support for health services, access to education, and the creation of child-friendly spaces. The team also visited Women Development and Training Centres, which provide training to Sudanese women refugees and requested material and financial support.

CHILD PROTECTION

- UNHCR conducted 631 Best Interest Assessments (BIAs) for vulnerable refugee children in 2024, including unaccompanied and separated children, out of which 460 are Sudanese. These children were referred to temporary care, and families caring for them were provided with core relief items or cash assistance.
- Since January 2024, 9,400 refugee children have been welcomed at the Child-Friendly Space at UNHCR's main office and the CDC, providing them with a safe and supportive environment. Of these, 9,125 children participated in unstructured play and recreational sessions and 275 children attended structured sessions twice a week, where they engaged in activities designed to promote their development, well-being, and learning, contributing to their emotional and social resilience. These sessions are part of UNHCR's efforts to provide psychosocial support and create a sense of normalcy for refugee children.

DURABLE SOLUTIONS

- One of UNHCR's key objectives is finding durable solutions for very vulnerable refugees. So far in 2024, 1,132 refugees have departed through resettlement, complementary pathways, evacuations via the Emergency Transit Mechanism (ETM) to Rwanda, and the Humanitarian Corridor to Italy in 2024. 40% are from Sudan, 18% from Eritrea, 8% from Ethiopia, 6% from South Sudan, 6% from Somalia, 5% from Syria and the remaining from other countries.

Shelter and Non-Food Items (NFIs)

- UNHCR's distribution of core relief items (CRIs) across different parts of Libya in October provided essential support to 11,243 refugees and asylum-seekers living in challenging conditions, including 7,071 Sudanese refugees. These distributions—including blankets, hygiene kits, solar lamps, and kitchen supplies—play a crucial role in helping families displaced by war and conflict meet their basic needs, preserve their dignity, and adapt to harsh environments as they try to rebuild their lives. So far, 54,620 individuals, including 30,164 Sudanese refugees, have benefitted from CRI support since the beginning of the year.
- From 15 to 17 October, 396 Sudanese households (1,677 individuals) in Jalu, Awjela, and Ejkhera received essential core relief items from UNHCR and LibAid. Items included blankets, kitchen sets, plastic sheets, solar lamps, and hygiene kits.
- On 21 and 22 October, UNHCR together with partner Libyan Red Crescent (LRC) conducted a two-day distribution in Alkufra targeting 500 newly arrived Sudanese refugee families (2,646 individuals). Items include blankets, mattresses, jerrycans, plastic sheets, soap, kitchen sets, and baby diapers.

FIELD OPERATIONS

Cash-Based Intervention (CBI)

- UNHCR's cash-based interventions offer crucial financial aid to some of those most at risk, reaching 3,370 refugees (including 2,398 Sudanese) since the start of the year. Of this number, 666 refugees (over 80% of which were Sudanese refugees) were reached during October. The monthly amount received is based on family size and is calculated for two months and paid in one single transaction. Criteria include homeless individuals seeking immediate shelter, survivors of severe violations, those with life-threatening medical conditions, victims of severe accidents, pregnant women or single mothers, and individuals released from detention.

On 15 October, UNHCR Chief of Mission Aseer Al-Madaien, local leaders, and ACTED inaugurated a rehabilitated school in Tajoura, which includes two new classrooms, improving school capacity for 550 displaced and refugee students.

UNHCR/ Imbayyah Alwirfili

Quick Impact Projects (QIPs)

- UNHCR is supporting local public services through Quick Impact Projects (QIPs), aimed at rehabilitating infrastructure and enhancing essential services in health, education, public spaces, and water, sanitation, and hygiene (WASH) facilities.
- On 15 October, UNHCR handed over a school in Tajoura, which was rehabilitated as part of UNHCR's QIPs. The project aimed to increase the school capacity which is in a densely populated area with only a few schools. The school serves 550 students, including internally displaced and refugee children. To reduce overcrowding, UNHCR, through partner ACTED, built two additional classrooms, with all the necessary civil, electrical, and metal works in addition to tiling, insulation, finishing works, and a ramp for people with disabilities.

Coordination

- UNHCR coordinates the Inter-Agency Response for the Libyan portion of the Regional Refugee Response Plan. The response is coordinated through an inter-agency task force structure, including seven thematic task forces (Protection, Shelter & NFI, Food Security, WASH, Health & Nutrition, Education, and Access). An Information Management (IM) Task Force supports data collection and management.
- On 26 October, UNHCR participated in a joint planning consultative meeting organized by the eastern-based authorities in Benghazi. The meeting brought together ministries and official institutions as well as UN agencies and INGOs, with the aim of highlighting the work of each participating entity and the major priorities and opportunities in the humanitarian and development fields.

UNHCR PARTNERS

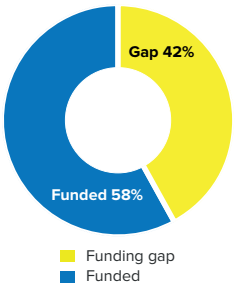
acted, cesvi, Futbolmas, International Rescue Committee, INTERSOS, LPRC, The Libyan Red Crescent, MOOMKEN.ORG for Awareness & Media, NRC Norwegian Refugee Council

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.

USD 67.5 million

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



Canada, United Nations CERF, European Union, German humanitarian assistance, UNDP, RDPP North Africa, UKaid from the British people

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