

Flash Update

January 2025



Emergency Transit Mechanisms (ETMs) in Niger and Rwanda, have offered safe transit for over 6,800 vulnerable forcibly displaced people registered with UNHCR in Libya since 2017. The aim of ETMs is to identify durable solutions such as resettlement and complementary legal pathways with financial support from the European Union (EU) and resettlement pledges by EU Member States and other countries.

Libya: UNHCR and partners conducted 33 visits to detention centres (DCs) in January to monitor the overall conditions and identify people who need international protection and humanitarian assistance. UNHCR and partner IRC provided core relief items (CRIs) to 1,407 individuals and provided 389 medical consultations to people in detention. These visits are part of the UNHCR's ongoing commitment to address urgent humanitarian needs within detention facilities, where individuals often lack essential supplies and face harsh conditions. At the end of January, 5,762 individuals were detained of whom 14 per cent (830) are potentially in need of international protection. UNHCR welcomed the [release](#) of 78 women and children, from Abusalim detention centre. Upon release, they were registered with UNHCR, and received financial assistance, medical treatment, blankets, clothes and personal care items. Some also received temporary shelter through UNHCR's dedicated caregivers. UNHCR continues to work closely with the Libyan authorities, including the Directorate for Combatting Illegal Migration (DCIM), for the release of all refugees and asylum-seekers, especially the most vulnerable.

Niger

Key figures:

4,242 people evacuated from Libya to Niger since November 2017 on 33 flights. No evacuations flight since May 2023.

6,773 people departed on resettlement/complementary pathways from Niger.

Among them:

4,273 evacuees from Libya.

2,500 refugees registered in Niger.

133 evacuees currently remain in Niger.

In January 28 people comprising 19 evacuees from Libya and nine Niger-registered refugees departed Niger for resettlement in Canada and Norway, totalling 6,773 departures on resettlement and through complementary legal pathways to 13 countries, since 2017. Canada remained the top receiving country with 1, 849 persons. The suspension of the United States Refugee Admissions Programme (UNRAP) on 20 January by the new US administration affected 824 people, including 684 Niger-registered refugees, 12 evacuees who were awaiting interviews or interview decisions and 126 Niger-registered refugees awaiting departures to the US. UNHCR has been raising awareness amongst the suspended cases, while seeking other solutions.

NIGER: Resettlement and complementary pathways departures and pending departures as of 31 January 2025 (ETM evacuees only)															
Destination	2017	2018	2019	2020	2021	Jan-2022 to Mar-2022	Total 2017-Mar 2022	Apr-Dec 2022	2023	2024	Total Apr 2022-Dec 2024	25-Jan	Total 2017-Jan 2025	Pending Departures (ETM)	Booked departures (amongst pending)
Belgium	0	43					43			(3 in ETC)	0	0	43	0	0
Canada	0	14	219	102	87	37	459	85	114	246	445	17	921	9	0
Finland	0	67	43	70	118	7	305	52	15		67	0	372	0	0
France	25	200	378	1	1		605	30	1	112	143	0	748	0	0
Germany	0	276	12		117		405	8	166	1	175	0	580	0	0
Italy	0	20	32	1	13		66			8	8	0	74	0	0
Luxembourg	0		35	14			49				0	0	49	0	0
Netherlands	0	26	51		22		99		16	24	40	0	139	0	0
Norway	0		3				3		1	3	4	2	9	0	0
Sweden	0	177	371	181	135	29	893	17			17	0	910	0	0
Switzerland	0	78	0	35			113				0	0	113	0	0
UK	0	53	65	26	14		158				0	0	158	0	0
USA	0	42	81	9	3	1	136		2	19	21	0	157	0	0
Total	25	996	1290	439	510	74	3334	192	315	413	920	19	4273	9	0

UNHCR and its partners continued providing lifesaving assistance and essential services to all refugees and asylum-seekers in ETM centres. In Agadez, 1,627 people and 200 host community members received food vouchers. 3,249 bars of laundry soap were distributed to 1,620 refugees and host community members, while 883 medical consultations were provided through mobile clinics and at the Toudou integrated health centre in Agadez. To support self-reliance, UNHCR and its partners trained 35 members of various associations in income-generating activities.

Among them:

9 refugees await departure.

103 interviews/decisions pending by third countries.

13 pending re-submissions and 8 rejected cases.

In Hamdallaye, UNHCR distributed a second round of benches, furniture, school kits, and teaching materials to two primary schools in the Hamdallaye Centre and Beri Koira host community village. The donations included 422 desks and benches, 14 teachers' desks, 17 chairs, and 26 school kits containing bags and textbooks. Pedagogical kits also included geometric sets and subject-specific teaching guides.

UNHCR also completed technical reception for newly built infrastructure at the ETM centre, including two boreholes, a dormitory for guards, a solar battery storage building, and a block of latrines. Additionally, the second phase of rainwater drainage works in Hamdallaye was finalized.

Rwanda
Key figures:

2,623 people evacuated from Libya to Rwanda since September 2019 on 19 flights, (four flights in 2024 with 415 people).

2,062 refugees resettled.

15 people departed through complementary pathways from Rwanda.

614 people currently waiting in Rwanda.

Since the introduction of the ETM in Rwanda in 2019, 2077 individuals have departed through resettlement and complementary pathways to nine countries, notably Canada, the USA, Sweden, Finland, Norway, France, Germany, Netherlands, and Belgium. These include 76 departures to five countries in January 2025.

RWANDA ETM: Resettlement departures and pending departures as of 31 Jan 2025													
Resettlement country	2019	2020	2021	Jan - March 2022	Total Phase 1	April - Dec 2022	2023	2024	2025	Total Phase 2	Total	Total Pending Departures (ETM)	Of which, Booked Departures (ETM)
Belgium			24		24		43			43	67		
Canada		23	110	57	190	18	158	216	9	401	591	11	10
Finland				30	30	83	74	27	21	205	235		
France		5	62		67	28	45	52		125	192	8	
Germany					-			110	22	132	132		
Italy					-					-	-		
Luxembourg					-					-	-		
Netherlands					-	47	5			52	52		
Norway		44	58	8	110	23	60	19	4	106	216	5	4
Sweden	7	124	3	8	142	112				112	254		
Switzerland					-					-	-		
UK					-					-	-		
USA					-	4	172	127	20	323	323	44	
Total	7	196	257	103	563	315	514	594	76	1,499	2,062	68	14

Among them

82 people pending departure and pre-departure formalities.

223 interviews/decisions pending by third countries.

309 pending submissions.

UNHCR and its partners provided assistance and protection services to 690 refugees and asylum-seekers. However, following the Executive Order from the new U.S. administration suspending USRAP on 20 January, 131 individuals in the U.S. pipeline were affected. This included 20 who were scheduled to travel, 24 awaiting departure arrangements, and 87 awaiting interviews with U.S. authorities. UNHCR Rwanda is currently seeking a way forward for these cases. In addition, 132 refugees and asylum-seekers and 55 host community members, benefited from vocational and skills training in hairdressing, tailoring, and ICT/computer literacy. 143 refugees attended language classes (English, Kinyarwanda, and French) to facilitate communication in their country of asylum and future places of residence, while 59 children aged 6 to 17 participated in the Accelerated Education Programme. Critical services, including water, sanitation, and hygiene (WASH), child protection, and gender-based violence (GBV) prevention and response, continued to be provided by UNHCR and its partners. Primary healthcare services were delivered to 833 individuals at the ETM Clinic, with 41 referrals assisted. Psychosocial support was provided to people with mental health needs. 101 individuals accessed supplementary nutrition programmes, while the general community continued to receive three hot meals per day at the canteen. Cash assistance was also provided to help meet non-food basic needs through local markets.

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