

EMERGENCY TRANSIT MECHANISM (ETM) FLASH UPDATE

July-August 2025



Emergency Transit Mechanisms (ETM) in Niger and Rwanda, have, since 2017, offered safe transit for 7,002 vulnerable forcibly displaced people registered with UNHCR in Libya. The aim of the ETM is to identify durable solutions such as resettlement and complementary legal pathways with resettlement pledges by EU Member States and other countries. The ETM can only be successful on a revolving basis, otherwise vulnerable refugees remain in Libya at risk of arbitrary detention, abuse, or deportation.

Libya At the end of August, 5,818 men, women and children were being held in detention centres run by the Department for Combatting Illegal Migration (DCIM) across Libya. This figure includes 1,691 (30%) people in need of international protection. As a result of the security developments in Tripoli since mid-May, Tajoura remains the only operational detention centre (DC) in the Tripoli area. UNHCR and partner Libaid were able to conduct an average of 2 visits per week to Tajoura DC to distribute core relief items as well as conduct protection assessments and collect biodata to facilitate advocacy for release. Since March 2025, Libya's eastern region, particularly Tobruk, has witnessed a sharp surge in rescue-at-sea operations. Sudanese, coming from the south or via Egypt, are the highest number intercepted. A total of 3,537 individuals have been intercepted/rescued since January 2025, compared to just 41 individuals during the same period in 2024 reflecting an extraordinary increase. UNHCR has strengthened its presence in Tobruk through its partner LRC to be able to access refugees and migrants who are all subsequently detained in Tobruk DC. The last evacuation flight to Rwanda took place in April 2025. With only 49 spaces available in the ETM, due to the slow departure of refugees and asylum-seekers whose cases have been accepted, the next evacuation flight is not yet known. UNHCR, nevertheless, continues the necessary activities to compile a pre-manifest in preparation for an eventual flight.

Key Figures:

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

6,971 people departed on resettlement/complementary pathways. (Including non-ETM departures through complementary legal pathways, not included in the table).

Among them:

4,337 evacuees from Libya (including add-ons).

2,643 refugees registered in Niger.

70 evacuees currently remain in Niger (including 8 rejected cases).

6 refugees await departure.

54 interviews/decisions pending by third countries.

2 pending re-submission

Niger

At the ETM site in Hamdallaye, UNHCR sustained monthly subsistence cash assistance, disbursing 4.8 million FCFA to 76 households in July. In August, large-scale NFI distributions reached both camp residents and nearby communities, providing 4,124 mosquito nets, 4,124 mats, 284 bales of second-hand clothing, and 10,000 bars of soap to 4,075 refugees and asylum-seekers, as well as 9,435 IDPs in surrounding villages. Protection monitoring continued, with four families profiled for resettlement in July and six additional cases identified in late August. Unaccompanied children also received hygiene kits as part of ongoing case management and child protection activities.

Resettlement countries	2017	2018	2019	2020	2021	Jan.-2022 to Mar.-2022	Total 2017-Mar-2022	Apr.-Dec 2022	2023	2024	Total Apr 2022-Dec 2024	Jan-25	Feb-25	Mar-25	Apr-25	May 25	Jun 25	Jul-25	Aug 25	Total Jan to Aug 2025	Total 2017-Aug 2025	Pending Departures (ETM)	Booked departures (amongst pending)
Belgium		43					43				-										43		
Canada		14	219	102	87	37	459	85	114	246	445	16	11	3	22	11	4	3	2	72	976	10	10
Finland		67	43	70	118	7	305	52	15		67					2				2	374		
France	25	200	378	1	1		605	30	1	112	143					1				1	749		
Germany		276	12		117		405	8	166	1	175			6						6	586		
Italy		20	32	1	13		66			8	8										74		
Luxembourg			35	14			49				-										49		
Netherlands		26	51		22		99		16	24	40										139		
Norway			3				3		1	3	4	2								2	9		
Sweden		177	371	181	135	29	893	17			17										910		
Switzerland		78		35			113				-										113		
UK		53	65	26	14		158				-										158		
USA		42	81	9	3	1	136		2	19	21										157		
Total	25	996	1290	439	510	74	3334	192	315	413	920	18	11	9	22	14	4	3	2	83	4337	10	10

Despite these efforts, the site faced a sharp increase in malaria cases, with 240 new infections reported in August. The outbreak was linked to deteriorating sanitary conditions following the suspension of IOM's desludging and drainage contractor. In response, UNHCR prioritized the allocation of 2,000 mosquito nets from the August distribution specifically for Hamdallaye and authorized ADKOUL to undertake emergency clearing works ahead of a community clean-up. A coordination meeting with DGEC-MR, IOM, INTERSOS, COOPI, Good Neighbours and other partners was convened to agree on immediate remedial actions and explore longer-term sanitation solutions.

At the Agadez Humanitarian Centre, financial constraints forced UNHCR to terminate its partnerships with ADKOUL (responsible for WASH, shelter, environment, and site management) and ADES (responsible for education) as of 30 June 2025, creating serious gaps in essential services. To mitigate the impact, UNHCR and CNE redirected available resources to sustain life-saving assistance and strengthened collaboration with local health facilities to ensure continued access to basic services. In July, targeted food voucher distributions were launched to support the most vulnerable households, with priority given to female-headed single-parent families.

Complementary initiatives emphasized youth resilience. CIAUD launched vocational training in auto-mechanics and information technology, enabling refugee and host community youth to acquire practical skills and improve future prospects. In parallel, the July edition of the Bianou cultural festival fostered peace and social cohesion, highlighting the role of cultural exchange in promoting mutual understanding and solidarity. Together, these efforts underscore UNHCR's continued commitment to protection and resilience, even in the face of limited resources.

Key Figures:

2,760 people evacuated from Libya to Rwanda since September 2019 on 21 flights, (One flight received in 2025 with 137 people).

2,190 departed on resettlement as of 31 August 2025 refugees resettled (including departures through complementary legal pathways).

651 people currently waiting in Rwanda.

Among them:

145 people pending departure and pre-departure formalities.

358 interviews/decisions pending by third countries.

148 pending submissions to resettlement countries.

Rwanda Since the introduction of the ETM in Rwanda in 2019, 2,190 individuals have departed through resettlement and complementary pathways to nine countries, notably Belgium, Canada, Finland, France, Germany, Netherlands, Norway, Sweden, and the USA. These include 4 departures to Canada in August 2025.

Resettlement countries	2019	2020	2021	Jan - Mar 2022	Total Phase 1	Apr-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	105	497	687	4	
Finland				30	30	83	74	27	22	206	236	5	27
France		5	62		67	28	45	52	7	132	199	57	39
Germany					-			110	22	132	132		
Italy					-					-	-		
Luxembourg					-					-	-		
Netherlands					-	47	5			52	52	9	
Norway		44	58	8	110	23	60	19	13	115	225	4	
Sweden	7	124	3	8	142	112				112	254		
Switzerland					-					-	-		
UK					-					-	-		
USA					-	4	172	127	20	323	323		
Total	7	196	257	103	563	315	514	594	189	1,612	2,175	79	66

In August 2025, UNHCR and partners provided assistance and protection services to 655 refugees and asylum-seekers, including four newborn babies and four refugees who departed on resettlement to Canada during the month. Following the suspension of the US Resettlement Assistance Program (USRAP), UNHCR Rwanda has reassessed all 131 individuals previously in the USRAP and cases resubmitted to other resettlement countries. So far 16 have been accepted and UNHCR expects their departures before the end of this year. A total of 148 individuals, (including 22 UACs) do not have a resettlement country to be submitted to.

In addition, 235 refugees and asylum seekers and 82 host community members benefitted from vocational and skills training such as hairdressing, tailoring, ICT/ computer literacy and driving lessons. On the education side, 91 refugees attended language classes (English, Kinyarwanda, and French) to facilitate their communication while in their country of asylum and future places of residence, and 78 children between 6 and 17 years attended the Accelerated Education Programme. Critical services including water, sanitation and hygiene (WASH), child protection, gender-based violence (GBV) prevention and response continued to be provided by UNHCR and its partners. Primary healthcare services were provided to 925 individuals at the ETM Clinic, and 48 referrals were assisted, while 88 individuals had access to supplementary nutrition programmes in August 2025. In addition, every refugee in the ETM continued to receive three hot meals per day at the ETM cafeteria. Psychosocial Support was also provided to 109 individuals with mental health needs, and cash assistance is provided to all to meet non-food basic needs from local markets.

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