UNHCR
The UN Refugee Agency

Libya Operational Update

30 September 2024

69,676

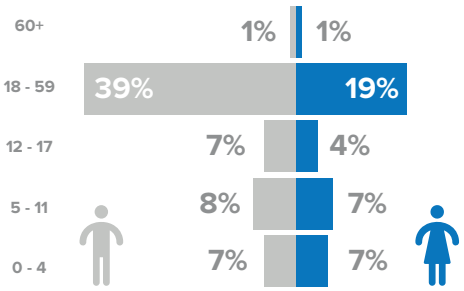
refugees registered with UNHCR in Tripoli.

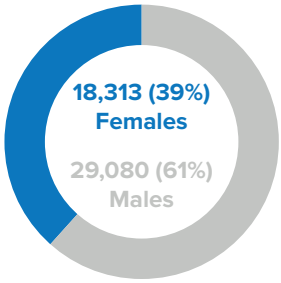
68% are Sudanese refugees
14% are Syrian refugees
11% are Eritrean refugees
7% other refugees[2]

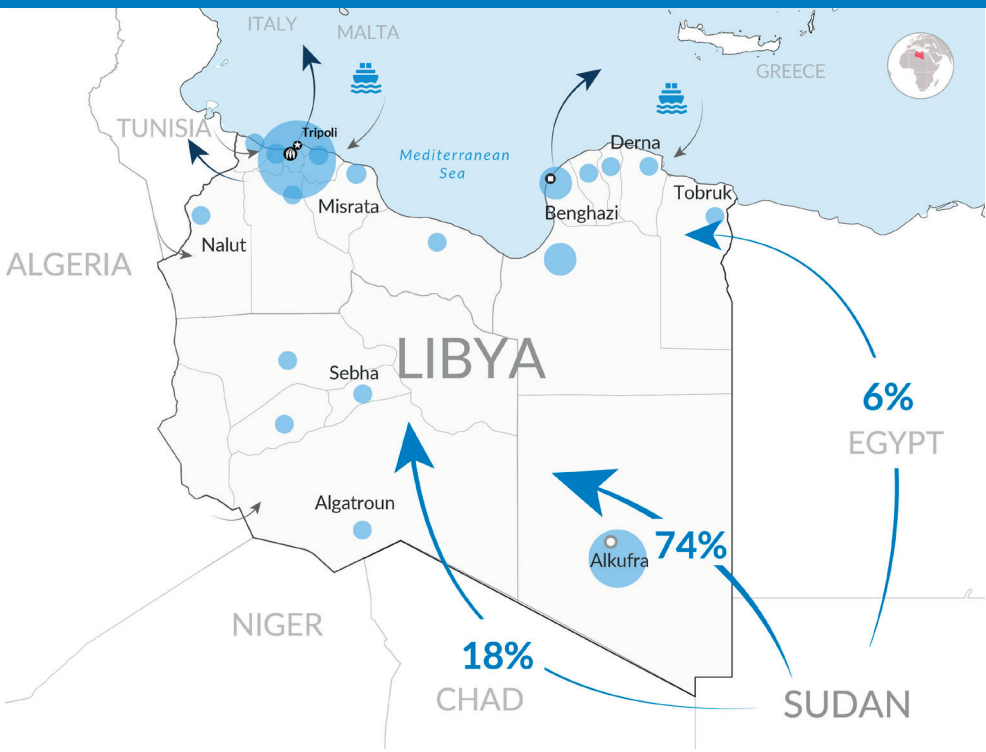
Sudanese Refugees

47,393

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







Office of Chief of Mission
National Capital
Field Office
UNHCR Presence
Administrative Boundaries
Sudanese Population
Arrival of Sudanese
Onward Movment of Sudanese
Rescue at Sea / Interception by Libyan Coast Guard
Expulsion of Sudanese by Tunisian authuroties

1. The arrival trends of Sudanese refugees is based on surveys with 9,200 Sudanese refugee households.
2. UNHCR registers refugees from 9 nationalities: Eritrea, Ethiopia, Iraq, Palestine, Somalia, South Sudan, Sudan, Syria, Yemen.

HIGHLIGHTS

In 2024:

- 2,661 refugees received cash assistance
- Durable solutions found for 1,132 refugees and asylum-seekers
- 31,000 refugees reached through protection outreach
- 702 unaccompanied children were identified and referred for further assistance
- 53,859 calls received and processed at UNHCR's call centre
- Over 9,573 refugees, have received tailored protection services
- 500 people affected by floods in Sebha received critical core relief items (CRIs) and hygiene kits in September
- 16,388 refugees received medical consultations
- Two hospitals in Alkufra benefited from medical equipment to support 10,000 Sudanese refugees and host communities
- 100,000 refugees and Libyan host communities have been reached with medical supplies and equipment given to hospitals

PROTECTION

- At the beginning of September, the number of new arrivals in Alkufra remained relatively low, which was likely due to fuel shortages impacting transportation from Sudan. As the fuel situation improved, daily arrivals resumed to 300-400 individuals. By the end of September, 99,600 Sudanese refugees were estimated to have arrived in Libya, compared to 97,000 at the beginning of the month.
- Onward movements of refugees and migrants continue. In 2024, the overall number of sea arrivals to Italy has declined, with 49,308 reported between January and September, which is a 65% reduction compared to the arrivals during the same period in 2023, primarily from Libya and Tunisia. This reduction can be attributed to increased maritime monitoring at sea.

REGISTRATION

- By the end of September, UNHCR has registered 28,151 new Sudanese refugee arrivals in Tripoli, totaling 47,393 Sudanese refugees registered, including those who arrived before the onset of the war in Sudan 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.

UNHCR engages with refugees at the waiting area at the Registration Centre to explain their rights and how to seek assistance, ensuring they have the information needed to access available support.

UNHCR/ Alkelani Elmeliti

Find out more

PROTECTION ASSESSMENTS

- UNHCR' 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 31,000 refugees so far this year.
- In September 2024, the protection needs of 811 refugees were assessed in-depth, amounting to 5,473 refugees who have undergone protection needs assessments this year, including 3,982 Sudanese refugees.
- Home visits help to better understand the accommodation set-up of refugees, and UNHCR was able to visit the homes and shelters of 109 refugees in September, reaching 1,263 refugees since the start of the year in the Tripoli area. 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.
- UNHCR's partner, CESVI, has also conducted 505 outreach visits, reaching over 1,500 refugees, providing follow-up support in areas such as GBV case management, child protection, and assistance for caregivers.
- UNHCR conducted protection surveys for 14,198 Sudanese refugees in 2024, including 21,391 since the start of the conflict in Sudan, assessing their travel routes, family composition, and future intentions.
- Furthermore, UNHCR has provided phone counselling to 14,000 newly arrived Sudanese refugees in eastern Libya since the start of the conflict in April 2023.

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 September, 397 refugees, including 297 Sudanese refugees, received this type of support. Assistance provided includes cash, medical care, psychosocial support, food, water, clothing, core relief items, and care arrangements.
- Over 9,573 refugees, including 6,672 Sudanese refugees, have received specialized case management services, such as psychosocial assistance, GBV survivor support, child protection services, and multi-purpose cash assistance.
- During September, the Community Day Centre (CDC) provided services to 1,672 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 67 walk-in cases with urgent protection concerns. Of these, 49 individuals were admitted and received immediate assistance, while the remaining cases were scheduled for follow-up appointments to ensure they receive the necessary support.

Through partner IRC, UNHCR provides access to mental health support to refugees at the CDC.

UNHCR/ Ziyad Alhamadi

Find out more

COMMUNITY-BASED PROTECTION

- The Common Feedback Mechanism (CFM) call centre managed 6,177 calls in September, and 53,859 calls since the start of the year.
- Multisectoral needs assessments have been carried out in Alkufra to identify urgent protection and humanitarian needs.
- On 5 September, UNHCR conducted training sessions in Alkufra for staff of national partner Libyan Red Crescent (LRC), the municipality and local humanitarian actors. The training focused on supporting people with specific needs, effective community outreach and providing psychological first aid in humanitarian crises. On 30 September, UNHCR hosted a two-day training at the UN Hub in Benghazi for partners LibAid and LRC. The sessions addressed critical areas such as protection in mixed movement flows, integrating protection into all activities across different sectors (protection mainstreaming), inter-agency referrals, monitoring detention centres, data protection, and UNHCR' partnership management principles.
- On 7 September, UNHCR's Community-based Protection (CBP) team completed a two-week mission to Benghazi and Alkufra aimed to enhance communication with Sudanese refugee communities, assess their needs, and explore potential collaboration with key partners and stakeholders. In Benghazi, the mission team focused on establishing communication channels with the Sudanese refugee community and assessing their immediate needs through Focus Group Discussions (FGDs), home visits, and capacity-building activities. In Alkufra, the mission focused on understanding the needs of Sudanese refugees residing in farms and informal settlements and explored collaboration opportunities with local partners to enhance support mechanisms.

CHILD PROTECTION

- UNHCR conducted 584 Best Interest Assessments (BIAs) for vulnerable refugee children in 2024, including unaccompanied and separated children, out of which 404 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, 6,118 refugee children have been welcomed at the Child-Friendly Space at UNHCR's main office, providing them with a safe and supportive environment. Of these, 1,333 children participated in unstructured play and recreational sessions and 259 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.

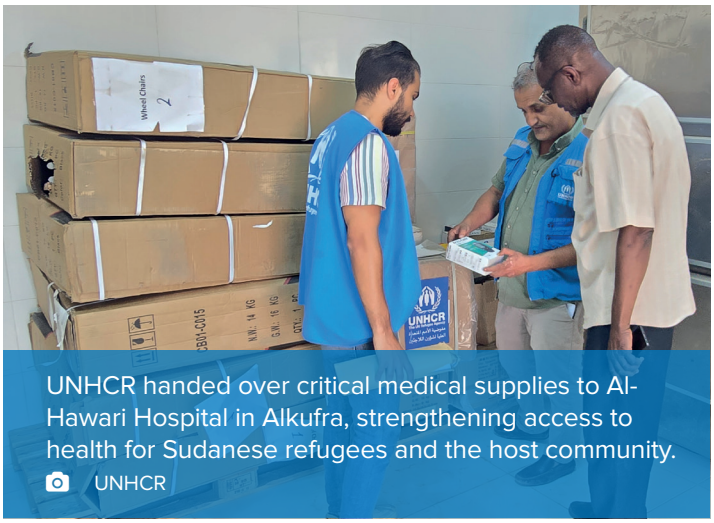
DURABLE SOLUTIONS

- One of UNHCR's key objectives is finding durable solutions for very vulnerable refugees. On 2 September, UNHCR evacuated 20 refugees and asylum-seekers to Italy through the Humanitarian Corridor. On 26 September, 119 asylum-seekers were evacuated to Rwanda via the Emergency Transit Mechanism (ETM), where they will eventually be resettled in third countries. The primary nationalities were from Sudan, Eritrea and Ethiopia.
- In September, 200 refugees departed with UNHCR s support through durable solutions. This brings the total number of refugees to 1,132 who have departed through resettlement, complementary pathways, evacuations via the Emergency Transit Mechanism (ETM) to Rwanda, and the Humanitarian Corridors 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.

FIELD OPERATIONS

Health

- UNHCR provided medical care to 1,691 refugees in Tripoli during September, totaling 16,388 consultations since the beginning of the year. UNHCR also provided medical equipment to Al-Hawari Hospital and Alkufra Diabetes Centre in Alkufra. On average, the hospitals serve around 60 and 150 patients per day respectively. The items delivered were essential medical equipment including ultrasound machines, complete blood count machines, and an electrocardiograph. Other supplies and furniture were also provided to enhance the capacity of the two facilities.



UNHCR handed over critical medical supplies to Al-Hawari Hospital in Alkufra, strengthening access to health for Sudanese refugees and the host community.
UNHCR

- So far, 100,000 refugees and Libyan host communities have been reached with medical supplies and equipment given to hospitals and health centres throughout the country: 15,000 in Az-Zawiyah, 20,000 in Tripoli, 20,000 in Benghazi, 7,000 in Shahat, and 40,000 in Alkufra.

Cash-Based Intervention (CBI)

- UNHCR's cash-based interventions offer crucial financial aid to some of those most at risk, reaching 2,661 refugees (including 1,827 Sudanese) since the start of the year. Of this number, 474 refugees were reached during September. The amount received is based on family size and is calculated on a monthly basis for two months and paid in one single transaction. A single adult will receive the equivalent of $100. A family between two and four people qualify for $186, and a family of five or more receive $225. This includes 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.

Shelter and Non-Food Items (NFIs)

- Families affected by the floods in Sebha, southern Libya, received critical support from UNHCR on 16 September, with core relief items (CRIs) and hygiene kits airlifted from Benghazi. 500 people who had sought refuge in local schools were assisted. This was UNHCR's fourth airlift to southern Libya this year, following missions to aid those impacted by the Ghat floods and support Sudanese refugees in Alkufra.
- So far, over 10,000 Sudanese refugees in Alkufra, who arrived following the conflict, have received mattresses, blankets, solar lamps, plastic sheets, jerry cans, kitchen sets, and hygiene kits for women and men, including those refugees who were impacted by the floods. More than 5,800 Sudanese refugees in other parts of the country, including Benghazi and Tripoli, received core relief items and hygiene items.
- During home visits, UNHCR's partner, the International Rescue Committee (IRC), provides CRIs directly to refugees in their residences. 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.

UNHCR's Chief of Mission, Aseer Al-Madaien, briefs donors on the Sudan crisis and UNHCR's ongoing refugee programme in Libya, highlighting the humanitarian challenges and the response efforts.

UNHCR/Ziyad Alhamadi

Partnerships

- UNHCR is expanding its partnerships to bolster support for Sudanese refugees in Libya. Partner CESVI will enhance case management to assess and respond to cases of child protection and gender-based violence. NRC will address the increased multipurpose cash needs in Tripoli, while INTERSOS expands legal awareness services. Additionally, partnerships with LibAid and the Libyan Red Crescent (LRC) are expanded to intensify efforts to meet the rising demand for core relief items and other material assistance in Alkufra. Moomken is strengthening the capacity of the CFM call centre with 5 additional staff to respond to refugee queries. UNHCR is also partnering with the Agency for Technical Cooperation and Development (ACTED), Futbol Mas, International Rescue Committee (IRC), and Norwegian Refugee Council (NRC).

Coordination

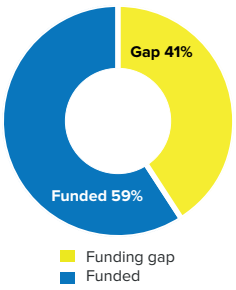
- UNHCR coordinates the Inter-Agency Response for the Libyan portion of the Regional Refugee Response Plan. The response is coordinated through an inter-agency task force structure, including seven thematic task forces (Protection, Shelter & NFI, Food Security, WASH, Health & Nutrition, Education, and Access). An Information Management (IM) Task Force supports data collection and management.
- On 10 September, UNHCR's Chief of Mission, Aseer Al-Madaien, briefed donors on the Sudan crisis and UNHCR's ongoing refugee programme in Libya. A week later, on 17 September, Edina Slipicevic-Dziho, UNHCR's Assistant Chief of Mission for Protection, together with IOM, UNICEF and WHO, briefed EU departments in Brussels (DG HOME, DG NEAR, ECHO) on the migration routes Sudanese refugees are taking to reach Libya, as well as the challenges and needs of the humanitarian response.

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



CONTACT: UNHCR External Relations and Public Information Unit: lbytrer@unhcr.org

Links: UNHCR Global Focus | UNHCR Libya Facebook | UNHCR Libya X | UNHCR Data Portal | UNHCR Libya website |