UNHCR The UN Refugee Agency

UNHCR UPDATE

LIBYA

13 December 2022

Key Figures:

143,419 Libyans currently internally displaced (IDPs)[1]

688,121 IDP returnees[1]

43,000 registered refugees and asylum-seekers[2]

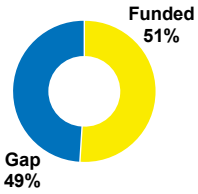
502 monitoring visits to detention centres so far in 2022

445 refugees and asylum-seekers released from detention so far in 2022

1,834 vulnerable refugees and asylum-seekers have departed[2]

Funding

USD **70.0** M required for 2022



[1] IOM-DTM June 2022.
[2] Data as of 1 Dec 2022.

Highlights

Art contest with the theme of gender equality. ©UNHCR

The 11 December marked the last day of the events UNHCR Libya and partners organized for the 16 Days of Activism. During the last two weeks, several activities were carried out at various locations including the Community Day Centre (CDC). In the last sessions, UNHCR with partner CESVI held focus group discussions, awareness-raising sessions on the issue of gender-based violence and a painting contest with the theme of gender equality. The sessions were attended by more than 50 participants, including children, people with special needs, and community mobilizers. The aim of the sessions was to raise awareness on how survivors of violence can seek assistance and services.

On 7 December, UNHCR Libya, with the support from the MENA Protection Service, facilitated a session on addressing fraud committed by people of concern. The session was attended by 75 participants from various UNHCR units and focused on the anti-fraud policy, definitions, standard operating procedures, referral mechanisms and key players who are responsible for the implementation of the anti-fraud policy in the Libya operation. The session will be followed by other sessions in the coming months to ensure anti-fraud measures and systems are embedded into the day-to-day work of all units.

Population Movements

So far in 2022, more than 23,000 asylum-seekers, refugees, and migrants have been reported as rescued or intercepted by the Libyan authorities. Last week, ten rescue/interception operations were carried out with more than 1,200 survivors, among whom there were 198 people of concern to UNHCR. Partner International Rescue Committee (IRC) responded to two operations in Tripoli Naval Base (TNB) providing medical assistance and non-food items (NFIs) to the survivors.

UNHCR Response

The child friendly space (CFS) in the CDC, run by CESVI, provides recreational sessions for asylum-seeker and refugee children ranging from the age 3 to 15 who are selected based on vulnerability criteria. Trained facilitators organize two sessions a week for each group of up to seven children for a duration of four weeks. Last week, CFS facilitators conducted a focus group discussion with parents of the children who had attended the sessions at the CFS to receive their feedback and identify gaps. Most parents emphasized the positive behavioural changes they noticed in their children who became more interactive with others following the CFS sessions, while they also noted the difficulties they had with the transportation costs for them to bring their children to the sessions.

UNHCR, with partners, continues to provide help and services to some of the most vulnerable asylum-seekers and refugees. Last week, IRC distributed NFIs to 94 individuals, including 43 women and nine children at the CDC. UNHCR and CESVI distributed cash assistance to 81 families (290 individuals). Through partner Norwegian Refugee Council (NRC), UNHCR also provided vouchers to nine families (nine individuals). IRC also provided 345 general health and reproductive health consultations, 70 mental health consultations and referred 14 individuals to public hospitals and private clinics. The medical team also supported 24 individuals through the 24/7 hotline, 16 of whom were referred for secondary medical assessments.

As of 4 December, it is estimated that there were 3,670 people in detention centres (DCs) across Libya, among whom 1,515 were people of concern to UNHCR. IRC carried out visits to Triq Al-Sikka, Triq Al-Matar and Ain Zara detention centres and provided more than 120 medical consultations. UNHCR also provided NFIs to 174 women in Abusliem DC. On 4 December, in Abusliem DC, UNHCR, jointly with IRC, conducted psychosocial sessions with 20 women in two groups.

At the Serraj Registration Centre, UNHCR identified 28 individuals who managed to escape or who were released from trafficking camps. They were all referred to protection interviews to identify their needs and provide the necessary assistance, and 22 individuals, including seven women and five children, were provided with clothing kits. UNHCR outreach team carried out three field visits in Alhadhba, Souq Al Juma, and Arada in Tripoli. The team assessed the living conditions of the families, identified their vulnerabilities, and referred them to the relevant services for the required follow-up and assistance.

Through partner ACTED, UNHCR started distributing pre-paid cards to internally displaced and returnee families in Derna. The distribution aims to target 350 families, out of whom 193 families (more than 1,200 individuals) have already been reached. Partner NRC also continued distributing cards in Benghazi, where a total of 70 displaced families (347 individuals) have been reached. In the west, through NRC, UNHCR provided pre-paid cards to 31 displaced families (182 individuals) in Abusliem. The pre-paid cards can be used at local stores to buy groceries, medicines, and basic supplies.

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