



**THE CENTRAL MEDITERRANEAN
ROUTE: WORKING ON THE
ALTERNATIVES TO DANGEROUS
JOURNEYS**
2017

Supplementary Appeal

January - December 2017

JULY 2017

COVER PHOTOGRAPH:

At Kebribeyah camp in southern Ethiopia, home to some 14,000 Somali refugees, a young man explains why young people undertake dangerous journeys to migrate in search of opportunity. Two thirds of the refugees here are below the age of 18, and opportunities beyond secondary school are limited. © UNHCR/D. DIAZ, 26 February 2017.

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At a glance - the Central Mediterranean Route Situation

The context

Between January and June 2017, 2,171 refugees and migrants died or went missing in the central Mediterranean, many of them trying to cross from Libya to Italy

Movements of refugees and migrants from Libya to Europe are increasing. Instability in Libya is hindering protection and creating an environment plagued with human rights abuses.

The scale of movements at the cross-regional level highlights the specific risks refugees and migrants encounter while en route to Libya, and then onto Europe.

Given the specificities of the migration flows, and the context in Libya, the humanitarian response must be both flexible and comprehensive.

The strategy

Three-pronged, with broad objectives and selected activities in sub-Saharan Africa, North Africa, and in destination countries of Europe

In sub-Saharan Africa, UNHCR will target countries of asylum, origin and transit to mitigate identified protection risks along routes. Interventions will include raising awareness of risks and improving communication with communities likely to travel towards Libya.

In North Africa, UNHCR will work to prevent refoulement; improve access to territory and asylum; conduct awareness raising and advocacy on the dangers of irregular migration; and enhance the overall protection space.

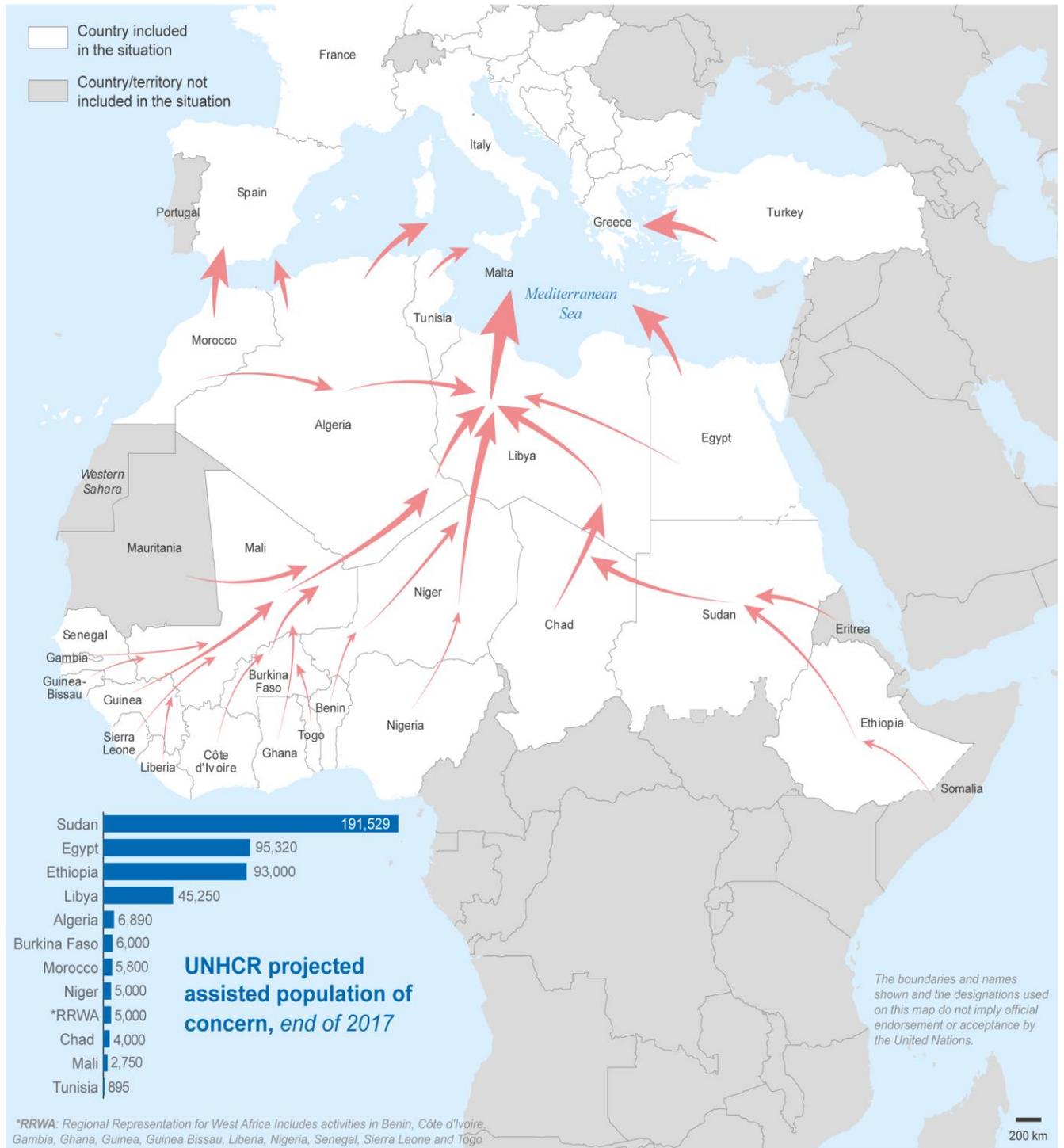
In Europe, UNHCR will continue supporting, complementing and building existing government capacities to ensure effective and safe access to asylum, protection services and solutions for people of concern, with particular attention to those with specific needs and vulnerabilities.

With an estimated **461,434 people of concern** by the end of 2017, UNHCR is appealing for **\$421.2 million¹** for January to December 2017

This Appeal complements activities in a range of related processes and other appeals, with all of the planned activities in accordance with the multi-stakeholder, 'whole-of-society' approach endorsed in the New York Declaration. A UNHCR Special Envoy will facilitate coordination and cooperation.

¹ All dollar signs denote US dollars. This total includes regional and global activities, and support costs (7 per cent).

MAP - CENTRAL MEDITERRANEAN ROUTE | as of end of June 2017



Introduction

The movement of refugees and migrants across the Sahara and through the central Mediterranean Sea towards Europe, in particular to Italy, is taking a devastating toll on human life. Between January and June 2017, 2,171 refugees and migrants died or went missing in the central Mediterranean, many of them trying to cross from Libya to Italy. Although data is incomplete, there are reports of many others perishing en route, as a result of the rigours of the journey. In addition, evidence is overwhelming that refugees and migrants are also exposed to a vast range of abuses. These include extrajudicial killings, being abandoned to die in the desert, extortion, torture including to extract ransoms, sexual violence and exploitation, kidnapping, human trafficking, family separation, protracted detention in sub-standards conditions, forced labour and other serious human rights abuses.

The reasons pushing people into such dangerous migration are many and varied. Examples include people fleeing ongoing conflict and insecurity in Somalia, Sudan, Yemen, Nigeria, the Central African Republic, Mali and Libya; the effects of climate change, especially drought and famine, and the non-resolution of past conflicts marked by continued violence and widespread violation of human rights such as in Eritrea; and the chance to seek better employment opportunities. Some people move with a purpose, some with no clear destination in mind, and others are trafficked.

The scale of movements at a cross-regional level has highlighted the specific risks refugees and migrants encounter while en route to Libya, and then onto Europe. Most of those on the move engage smugglers to assist their movement, which not only leads to increasing risks of falling prey to trafficking and human rights abuses, but also contributes to strengthening transnational criminal networks and posing risks to the national security of concerned States.

Countries in West Africa and in the East and Horn of Africa² are facing immense humanitarian pressures, which are having a negative impact on asylum space, as well as the prospect for lasting solutions. All countries along the migratory routes to Libya are signatories to the 1951 and 1969 OAU refugee Conventions. Despite this and international, regional and national efforts to restore or maintain peace and security, including along borders, hundreds of thousands of refugees and migrants are in need of safety, protection and relief through asylum and/or migration channels, in neighbouring states and beyond. Even though people of concern to UNHCR tend to be invisible in the current mixed movements, they represent an important element of the phenomenon.

² The Horn Africa region hosts over 3 million refugees and some 9 million IDPs, many of whom have been displaced for over two decades, in particular from South Sudan, Somalia and Eritrea. The West Africa region is hosting 300,000 refugees and around 3 million IDPs.

People in need of international protection are often therefore crossing several countries, often alongside migrants and smugglers, not being aware, able or willing to avail themselves of refugee status determination options and protection services along the route. The lack of effective protection in the countries to which they initially fled, as well as those they transited through in the region; poor reception conditions; lengthy refugee status determination procedures; lack of livelihood support; and limited access to durable solutions such as resettlement and family reunification are all reasons for moving on until such conditions can be found. The absence of security, livelihood and educational opportunities are also important elements in determining whether someone makes the decision to undertake such risky movements.

In Libya itself, people of concern are living with host communities but, because of the security situation in the country, they have restricted freedom of movement. Others are currently out of reach, detained in official detention centres run by Libyan authorities, or in warehouses or “connection houses” operated by smugglers or traffickers.

In Italy, the reception system for asylum-seekers is under considerable pressure. The most common sub-Saharan African nationalities arriving by sea in Italy were Nigerians, Eritreans, Guineans, Ivoirians, Gambians, Senegalese, Malians, Sudanese, Somalis, and Ghanaians. According to Eurostat statistics³, the average protection rate in Europe for these nationalities was 40 per cent in 2016. By the end of June 2017, 83,000 people—an 18 per cent increase—had arrived in Italy, mostly originating from sub-Saharan African countries. In 2016, 40,889 people, or 23 per cent of the arrivals by sea in Italy, were from the East and Horn of Africa region and 109,645, or approximately 60 per cent, were from the West Africa region. The percentage has dropped to 13 per cent for East and Horn of Africa between January and June 2017 and has increased slightly to 62 per cent for West Africa. Amongst the seven most common West African nationalities, the average protection rate by nationality was 27 per cent and amongst the three East and Horn of Africa nationalities, the average protection rate by nationality was 70 per cent. This amounted to over 68,500 nationals of these countries being granted protection in the European Union+ region in 2016, including over 54,000 granted refugee status or subsidiary protection.

In Europe, UNHCR works with asylum-seekers, refugees, beneficiaries of subsidiary protection and unaccompanied and separated children (including those who may not fall under the latter categories). In the European Union context, subsidiary protection is one of the two forms of

³ <http://ec.europa.eu/eurostat/web/asylum-and-managed-migration/data/database>.

international protection, together with refugee status, regulated under European Union law. It is granted to persons who face a real risk of suffering serious harm, as defined in European Union law, in their country of origin. Following successive UN General Assembly resolutions since the elaboration of UNHCR's mandate in its 1950 Statute, persons who may not necessarily be 1951 Convention refugees but who nevertheless need international protection fall under UNHCR's wider competence.⁴

This year's large-scale arrivals, coupled with the backlog from 2016, have led to problems and delays in the processing of applications made by those who have disembarked. These include slower identification for relocation, for refugee status determination, or for appointment of guardians for children. In addition, onward movements from Italy have been significantly reduced by the restoration of border checks in neighbouring countries. Those granted protection in Europe include those fleeing conflict and human rights abuses, torture, gender-based violence, persecution—including due to religion, political activities, sexual orientation or gender identity—as well as unaccompanied children and victims of trafficking. It has been estimated, for example, that up to 80 per cent of the Nigerian women arriving by sea in Europe in 2016 may have been trafficked.⁵

Given the multiplicity, scale and complexity of the needs, UNHCR is stepping up its response to help government authorities respond to the many challenges they are confronting. It is UNHCR's field-based assessment that many of those who attempt the dangerous journey to Europe through Libya would not risk it were they better informed of the perils involved at different stages of their journeys. Nor would they risk their life if adequate protection, assistance and solutions were available and effective across the various countries they cross in Africa prior to reaching Libya, and in Libya itself. By the time refugees or asylum-seekers have reached Libya, it is often too late to provide effective protection and safe alternatives, as the situation is very volatile and humanitarian access limited.

This Supplementary Appeal is aimed at scaling-up existing activities or implementing new ones to provide effective ways and means to protect refugees and asylum-seekers along the various routes leading to Libya, and support the engagement of all stakeholders in this endeavour. This appeal complements prevention and response activities for people rescued and disembarked outlined in the Appeal launched by UNHCR for the 2017 regional Refugee and Migrant Response Plan for

⁴ UN High Commissioner for Refugees (UNHCR), *Complementary Forms of Protection: Their Nature and Relationship to the International Refugee Protection Regime*, p.3, 9 June 2000, EC/50/SC/CRP.18, available at: <http://www.refworld.org/docid/47dfb491a.html>.

⁵ *The Guardian*, *Number of Nigerian women trafficked to Italy for sex almost doubled in 2016*, 12 January 2017, <https://www.theguardian.com/global-development/2017/jan/12/nigerian-women-trafficked-to-italy-for-sex-doubled-2016>.

Europe (RMRP)⁶, and the recent Supplementary Appeals for expanded response in Libya⁷, for Nigeria⁸ and Somalia⁹ situations as well as the humanitarian overview and requirements for the Lake Chad region.¹⁰ It also takes into consideration the progress achieved in stepping up activities within the context of two Comprehensive Refugee Response Frameworks (CRRFs) in Ethiopia and Somalia and which are of relevance to the movements towards Libya. This Supplementary Appeal also complements activities implemented by other organizations such as IOM for migrants using the same route.

Populations of concern

OPERATION	POPULATION OF CONCERN ASSISTED	PROJECTED ASSISTED POPULATION OF CONCERN
	<i>as of 31 May 2017</i>	<i>by 31 December 2017</i>
Sudan	107,367	191,529
Algeria	6,250	6,890
Egypt	83,906	95,320
Ethiopia	77,430	93,000
Libya	41,319	45,250
Morocco	5,126	5,800
Niger	4,100	5,000
Burkina Faso	2,500	6,000
Mali	975	2,750
Chad	700	4,000
Tunisia	605	895
Regional Representation for West Africa*	0	5,000
	330,278	461,434

* Includes activities in Benin, Cote d'Ivoire, Gambia, Ghana, Guinea, Guinea Bissau, Liberia, Nigeria, Senegal, Sierra Leone and Togo.

⁶ Refugee and Migrant Response Plan for Europe (RMRP) available at <http://reporting.unhcr.org/node/17167>.

⁷ Expanded Response in Libya supplementary appeal available at <http://reporting.unhcr.org/node/18625>.

⁸ Nigeria Supplementary Appeal available at <http://reporting.unhcr.org/node/18213>. A revised Supplementary Appeal for the Nigeria Situation is under preparation.

⁹ Somalia Situation Supplementary Appeal available at <http://reporting.unhcr.org/node/18593>.

¹⁰ Humanitarian needs and requirements overview, 2017 <http://reporting.unhcr.org/node/18593>.

Financial summary

UNHCR's Executive Committee (ExCom) budget for the Central Mediterranean Route Situation in 2017 was \$398.6 million. **To address the increasing needs of people of concern, UNHCR has established a supplementary budget for the requirements presented in this appeal, amounting to \$22.5 million. The total revised 2017 requirements for the Central Mediterranean Route Situation, including additional requirements, now amount to \$421.2 million** (including \$3.9 million in support costs for the additional requirements).

The total revised 2017 additional requirements for the Central Mediterranean Route (previously referred to as the "Refugee Crisis in Europe" and "Europe and North Africa situation") within the region of Europe are summarized in the 2017 regional Refugee and Migrant Response Plan for Europe (RMRP), which was launched in January 2017. The overall RMRP budget is \$691 million for the needs of refugees and migrants in Turkey, Greece, the Former Yugoslav Republic of Macedonia, Serbia, other affected countries in South Eastern Europe and Central Europe, and affected countries in Northern, Southern and Western Europe. The overall requirements for UNHCR within the RMRP are \$332.9 million.

CENTRAL MEDITERRANEAN ROUTE SITUATION ¹¹					
OPERATION	ExCom-approved budget excluding the Central Mediterranean Route Situation	ExCom Budget and subsequent adjustments related to the Central Mediterranean Route Situation	Additional requirements	Total	Total revised requirements
BURKINA FASO	20,842,928	480,000	3,462,520	3,942,520	24,785,448
CHAD	162,695,307	150,000	2,300,500	2,450,500	165,145,807
MALI	39,932,532	75,000	1,000,000	1,075,000	41,007,532
ETHIOPIA	297,728,054	32,749,751	-	32,749,751	330,477,805
NIGER	69,731,232	2,745,000	10,914,000	13,659,000	83,390,232
REGIONAL REPRESENTATION FOR WEST AFRICA ¹²	28,473,166	254,000	2,590,000	2,844,000	31,317,166
SUDAN	198,736,459	2,352,574	-	2,352,574	201,089,032
SUBTOTAL SUB-SAHARAN AFRICA	818,139,678	38,806,325	20,267,020	59,073,344	877,213,022

¹¹ Previously referred to as the 'Crisis in Europe' and 'Europe and North Africa Situation'.

¹² Includes activities in Benin, Cote d'Ivoire, Gambia, Ghana, Guinea, Guinea Bissau, Liberia, Nigeria, Senegal, Sierra Leone and Togo.

LIBYA	20,798,818	51,596,399	-	51,596,399	72,395,217
ALGERIA	35,941,740	88,986	-	88,986	36,030,726
EGYPT	76,347,170	2,897,917	-	2,897,917	79,245,087
MOROCCO	6,402,601	399,126	575,000	974,126	7,376,727
TUNISIA	4,821,915	977,782	-	977,782	5,799,697
SUBTOTAL NORTH AFRICA	144,312,244	55,960,210	575,000	56,535,210	200,847,454
GREECE	7,131,437	238,734,828	-	238,734,828	245,866,265
TURKEY	355,533,206	12,458,568	-	12,458,568	367,991,775
ITALY	15,051,126	12,370,367	-	12,370,367	27,421,493
SERBIA	15,662,789	6,517,283	-	6,517,283	22,180,072
FORMER YUGOSLAV REPUBLIC OF MACEDONIA	2,702,976	3,475,061	-	3,475,061	6,178,037
OTHER AFFECTED COUNTRIES IN CENTRAL AND SOUTH-EASTERN EUROPE ¹³	36,463,377	8,034,345	-	8,034,345	44,497,722
OTHER AFFECTED COUNTRIES NORTHERN, SOUTHERN AND WESTERN EUROPE ¹⁴	24,009,357	2,879,642	-	2,879,642	26,889,000
SUBTOTAL EUROPE	456,554,268	284,470,096	-	284,470,096	741,024,364
REGIONAL AND GLOBAL ACTIVITIES	91,963,220	16,933,336	278,200	17,211,536	109,174,756
SUBTOTAL	1,510,969,410	396,169,967	21,120,220	417,290,186	1,928,259,597
Support costs (7 per cent)	-	2,476,863	1,458,941	3,935,804	3,935,804
TOTAL¹⁵	1,510,969,410	398,646,830	22,579,161	421,225,991	1,932,195,401

¹³ Includes Albania, Bosnia and Herzegovina, Bulgaria, Croatia, Hungary, and Kosovo (S/RES/1244 (1999), Montenegro, Slovenia and sub-regional activities

¹⁴ Includes Austria, Belgium, Cyprus, France, Germany, Ireland, Luxembourg, Malta, the Netherlands, Norway, Spain, Sweden, Switzerland and the United Kingdom

¹⁵ Minor differences in totals due to rounding.

Regional strategy and coordination

Strategy overview

The proposed strategy is three pronged, with broad objectives and selected activities in countries of origin and or transit in sub-Saharan Africa, in North Africa, and in destination countries in Europe. In terms of target populations, it draws information from groups and people eventually recognized as in need of international protection at destination points, including victims of trafficking and unaccompanied children who are at heightened risks all along their way to Europe and fall within UNHCR's mandate. The strategy takes due account of the lack of a protection space in Libya, as well as the challenges these mixed flows pose to asylum systems.

In sub-Saharan African countries, UNHCR's strategy targets countries of asylum, origin and transit, and aims at mitigating identified protection risks including along routes; securing access to asylum; strengthening protection space available and delivering effective protection and solutions. This will be implemented through, for example, community-based protection by providing meaningful solutions, and by strengthening partnership and coordination with States and other partners. This will include capacity building; raising awareness of the risks of travel towards Libya and improving communication with members of communities likely to make such a decision; supporting cross-regional, regional and national law enforcement mechanisms for addressing human trafficking and migrant smuggling through inter-agency mechanisms; and strengthening data collection and analysis to provide an evidence base for policy-making and planning activities.

In North Africa, UNHCR will strive to provide targeted training support to the Coast Guards and support improved coordination of search and rescue efforts across the central Mediterranean route; ensure humane treatment and provision of humanitarian assistance to those rescued or intercepted at sea as well as expanded protection outreach and early identification of the most vulnerable people for timely provision of services and solutions, including at disembarkation points. The Office will seek to increase its access to detention centres in Libya, promote alternatives to detention, particularly for unaccompanied and separated children as well as other vulnerable people. UNHCR will facilitate information-sharing mechanisms and mass information campaigns among civil society and communities to underline the challenging protection environment in Libya and the risks associated with the journey along the central Mediterranean route; increase resettlement submissions as well as voluntary returns, along with advocacy for predictable resettlement quotas, facilitated family reunification and scaled up legal admission avenues for vulnerable refugees.

In Europe, UNHCR will continue supporting, complementing and building existing government capacities to ensure effective and safe access to asylum, protection services and solutions for

people of concern, with particular attention to specific needs and vulnerabilities including survivors of sexual and gender-based violence (SGBV) and torture, unaccompanied and separated children, people with disabilities, and victims of torture and trafficking. The Office will strengthen collective engagement and response to search and rescue operations, targeting private operators and other relevant actors, including through legal and technical advice and advocacy. It will seek to strengthen regional, national and local protection systems while advocating for longer-term solutions for refugees, in particular through reinforced alternative legal pathways to protection such as relocation, family reunification and resettlement. UNHCR will endeavour to systematically inform refugees and migrants of their rights and obligations in an age, gender and diversity-sensitive manner and through a participatory dialogue.

This strategy builds upon the many existing actions plans in the West and East Africa region, such as the Regional Protection Strategic Framework for responding to the Lake Chad Basin crisis; the Abuja Action Statement of the Regional Protection Dialogue on the Lake Chad Basin; the Banjul Action Plan on Statelessness (with ECOWAS); and the Nairobi Declaration on Protection and Durable Solutions for Somali refugees and its related Plan of Action (with IGAD/EU/UNHCR). It also builds upon the New York Declaration for Refugees and Migrants adopted in September 2016; and falls within the scope of the 2015 Valetta Declaration and Plan of Action, existing EC Migration Compacts, Regional Development and protection programmes as well as relevant aspects of the Khartoum and Rabat processes to name a few.

It seeks to support the operationalization of relevant bilateral or multilateral agreements such as the 21 May 2017 agreement of the Ministers of Interior of Chad, Italy, Libya and Niger in areas of relevance to UNHCR's mandate; the IGAD Regional Consultative Process on Migration (RCP) which is aimed at guiding States in the development of legislation and policies to protect the rights of migrants and refugees; the work done by the AU and EAC related to free movement of people; and the Africa-EU Migration, Mobility and Employment (MME) Partnership launched during the second Africa-EU Summit of Heads of State and Government in 2014. It will inform the planned European Union resettlement pledging with those in need of international protection from Egypt, Ethiopia, Libya, Niger and Sudan.

It also factors in lessons learnt from UNHCR's former Central Mediterranean Sea Initiative (CMSI) of December 2014, including good practice in operationalizing UNHCR's guiding framework for protection interventions in a mixed migration context. This includes, for example, UNHCR's "*10 - Point Plan of Action on refugee protection and mixed migration.*"

Coordination and partnerships

Targeted partnerships and concerted action is crucial to providing an effective and comprehensive protection response to address the situation of people of concern who have been or are at risk of serious human rights abuses on their way across Libya to Europe, and in ensuring adequate long-term solutions.

The recent appointment of a UNHCR Special Envoy for the Central Mediterranean route (SECM) will facilitate coordination and cooperation notably through inter-regional and inter-agency fora. The SECM will support integrated policy synergies and practices, building on the CMSI and the New York Declaration for Refugees and Migrants. The SECM will also focus on a harmonized approach to solutions, including through the CRRF (in Ethiopia and Somalia) and will suggest targeted programmatic interventions to mitigate the risks related to these journeys and find solutions. To maximise synergies and impact, the SECM will seek to ensure that UNHCR builds on existing mechanisms rather than creating new ones.

In this regard, all of the planned activities will be undertaken in accordance with the multi-stakeholder, 'whole-of-society' approach endorsed by the General Assembly in the New York Declaration. This is one involving 'national and local authorities, international organizations, international financial institutions, regional organizations, regional coordination and partnership mechanisms, civil society partners, including faith-based organizations and academia, the private sector, media and the refugees themselves'.

In particular, the coordination and partnership with regional partners such as the African Union, ECOWAS, IGAD, EAC, and the EU will prove instrumental in the search for lasting solutions in view of the cross-regional dimension of the issue. UNHCR will therefore look to further its contribution to regional mechanisms to advance its protection and solutions agenda. Finally, the Office will ensure that the activities foreseen in this Supplementary Appeal build on and complement ongoing initiatives and projects while maximizing opportunities for joint programming, in particular with IOM.

PLANNED RESPONSE

SUB-SAHARAN AFRICA

Regional strategy and coordination

Response strategy

The scale of movements at cross-regional level has highlighted the specific risks refugees and migrants encounter while en route to Libya, and then onto Europe. As detailed in the Introduction, data from Italian authorities shows that most of those arriving by sea in 2016 originate from sub-Saharan African countries, and that the reasons for their decision to embark on such risky movements are many and varied. These figures point to the fact that in the current onward movement through Libya to Europe, refugees and asylum-seekers from West Africa and the East and Horn of Africa represent an important feature of the mixed population flows, hence the call for greater engagement in these sub-regions.

For people of concern to UNHCR caught in mixed flows, reasons for undertaking these dangerous journeys along the West of East African routes include the multiplication of crisis, the lack of effective protection in countries of first asylum and transit in the region, poor or inexistent reception conditions, lengthy refugee status determination procedures, a lack of livelihood support, and limited access to solutions such as resettlement and family reunification outside of the continent. The absence of security, livelihood and educational opportunities are also important elements.

In the East and Horn of Africa, UNHCR has been engaged in addressing mixed movements for a long period of time as refugees and asylum-seekers represented the majority using this route towards Israel and Libya. UNHCR has devised regional and national strategies and plans to address the specific protection risks confronting refugees and asylum-seekers moving across the Sinai and to Libya¹⁶. Through dedicated attention and engagement of UNHCR and its partners, a reduction in abuses was noted, in particular for Eritreans moving across Sudan to the Sinai. Increased security at the border and in the Kassala camps, East Sudan, support in equipment and training for law enforcement, victims' protection programmes and the roll out of an innovative information campaign

¹⁶ See for example 2013 Regional Strategy for addressing trafficking and smuggling www.refworld.org/pdfid/51d175314.pdf and "Live, Learn and play Safe" initiative with a special focus on unaccompanied and separated children on the move. www.refworld.org/docid/53bbc6314.html.

were some of the measures taken that led to a significant reduction of kidnappings of refugees and asylum-seekers for extortion and trafficking purposes. The initiative “*Live, learn and play safe*” combined regional and country-specific interventions, building on and complementing existing regional interventions designed to protect children at risk and address smuggling and trafficking in East and North Africa. Continued engagement and support to ongoing activities in this sub-region is still needed.

In West Africa region, UNHCR did not have enough relevant information and data analysis to devise a comprehensive response that addresses the protection and solutions needs of people of concern on the move or likely to be. Nevertheless, a joint study by UNHCR and IOM on Migration and Nationality in West Africa region revealed that migrants, as well as refugees, asylum-seekers, nomadic populations and victims of trafficking face a particularly high risk of statelessness¹⁷.

UNHCR’s strategy aims at engaging all stakeholders in the protection of people of concern in order to give them meaningful alternatives to risking their lives through:

- Mitigating identified protection risks, including through community-based protection, and expanding the protection space;
- Identifying effective solutions;
- Strengthening partnership and coordination with States, IOM and others stakeholders, regional partners such as ECOWAS, IGAD, the African Union, including through capacity building and other stakeholders;
- Raising awareness of risks and improving communication with communities likely to travel towards Libya;
- Strengthening data collection and analysis to best inform policies and adjust planned activities.

In countries of origin, and jointly with relevant partners, UNHCR plans to undertake targeted information campaigns, engage in protection dialogues with selected countries of origin to discuss issues such as consular protection, nationality assessment, family tracing, capacity building to provide continuous civil registration and issuance of secure and accessible identification and travel documents. The Office will advocate for addressing the drivers for migration towards Libya and will also engage with the UN Country Team for development programming.

In countries of first asylum and transit, UNHCR will notably ensure access to asylum, reinforce its research, data analysis and sharing and strengthen the protection capacity of national and local

¹⁷ <http://unhcr.org/ecowas2015/nationalite-migration-apatridie-en-afrique-ouest.pdf>.

authorities. It will establish effective referral mechanism with meaningful services, in particular for people with specific needs, provide protection training and support to competent authorities at border points, increase the capacity for processing asylum claims, engage communities along the way in protection delivery and sensitization, and facilitate access to solutions, including through resettlement, family reunion and other legal pathways. It will strive to contribute to ongoing efforts aimed at addressing trafficking, including through dedicated support to victims.

Partnerships and coordination

At the national level, UNHCR will seek to work with partners through forums such as the Migration Working Group and national coordination mechanisms with the purpose of improving awareness on specific issues, fostering a multi-agency approach to responding to protection and solutions needs in mixed movements, and coordinating initiatives to ensure consistency and effectiveness in responses. These partners include IOM, UNODC, UNICEF as well as the UNCT as well as sub-regional and regional bodies such as the IGAD, ECOWAS, the East African Community, the African Union, and the European Union to name a few.

At a regional level, UNHCR will work in the framework of a number of bilateral and multilateral agreements and forums aimed at addressing the challenges associated with the phenomenon. These include the IGAD Regional Consultative Process on Migration (RCP), ECOWAS, the African Union, the Horn of Africa Initiative on Human Trafficking and Smuggling, the Khartoum Process as well as the Rabat Process to name a few.

Burkina Faso

Existing response

Burkina-Faso is a transit country for many West Africans, including Guineans, Gambians, Ivoirians, Senegalese, Sierra Leoneans and Ghanaians, who undertake the dangerous journey to Europe. Most of them are young and vulnerable; cross-border smuggling activities are also facilitated by the presence of the same ethnic groups on both sides of some borders. In addition, the migration route from Ouagadougou to Niamey passes through Dori town, where more than 10,000 Malian refugees are settled (Goudoubo refugee camp). Indeed, UNHCR has concerns that some refugees may be joining the migrant flows towards Libya by this route, in particular the youth. Burkina Faso is also hosting more than 32,600 refugees.

As part of its regular programme and, in consultation with both young refugees and host communities, UNHCR set up a livelihood programme focusing on vocational training targeting the youth who are most prone to onward movement. About 600 youth (60 per cent refugees and 40 per cent youth from the host community) are involved in this programme. UNHCR is also supporting the Government in the implementation of the national action plan to address statelessness through capacity building. Efforts particularly target birth registration, documentation and issuance of birth certificates, which have a bearing on mixed movements.

Strategy and coordination

Response strategy

Through a thorough analysis of the protection and solutions needs, UNHCR will aim at ensuring that people in need of international protection, be they settled in Burkina Faso or transiting through the country have timely access to fair and efficient asylum procedures and can enjoy related rights, decent reception conditions, benefit from effective protection, including through community based protection and have meaningful alternatives to irregular migration across Libya. The beneficiaries of the project are refugees, asylum-seekers, IDPs, unaccompanied and separated children, host communities and stateless people or at risk of irregular movement.

People of concern amongst mixed movements identified by UNHCR, IOM and partners will be referred to asylum procedures and reception facilities for protection and assistance, including temporary shelter if required. Of note, no discrimination will be made between refugees that directly sought refuge in Burkina Faso and those identified in mixed flows to avoid creating a pull factor.

Furthermore, UNHCR will seek to increase its outreach activities, directly or through partners, for identification purposes as well as to maximize timely delivering of protection and assistance. In this regard, it should be underlined that arbitrary detention is of a particular concern in Katchari and arrival data in Italy as of end of May 2017 point to a high number of unaccompanied and separated children arrivals from Guinea, Gambia, Senegal and Cote d'Ivoire who have likely transited in Burkina Faso and for whom special attention and targeted action is planned. Indeed, UNHCR intends to further collaborate with IOM in order to closely monitor mixed movements in Burkina Faso, with a specific view to identifying and protecting unaccompanied and separated children who are highly vulnerable and of great concern to the organization.

Data collection and analysis related to mixed movements towards Libya and their related challenges for people of concern crossing Burkina Faso will be strengthened. Building on IOM and other actors' work in this field, UNHCR will map the changing routes and patterns, identify the triggers, undertake a profiling (nationality, gender and age) of those with protection needs to best inform programmatic responses and contribute at national and local levels to a common understanding and coordinated approaches to the matter.

Considerable security challenges and social unrest have depleted public finances and impacted on the national asylum system and protection solutions. Action is needed to strengthen national and local protection capacities to ensure effective and safe access to asylum, effective protection and solutions as indeed instability, along with human trafficking, are likely to develop in the absence of a solid national protection system.

UNHCR has provided substantial support to the Burkinabe body in charge of refugee status determination, *Commission Nationale pour les Réfugiés* (CONAREF), including with the development of modern civil registration systems. However, it is estimated that in its current state (technical capacities and infrastructure), CONAREF cannot fully and effectively discharge its role and responsibilities. Rehabilitation of infrastructure and equipment is crucial to help it respond proactively to impending challenges associated with an unpredictable regional environment and speed up the refugee status determination decision-making process, including through mobile capacity. The delivery of assistance and protection to those people transiting Burkina Faso is included, also through temporary reception facilities when needed, along with life-saving services and community-based protection.

The Office will intensify information campaigns using all available materials such as videos, testimonies and documentaries to raise awareness of all potential candidates on hazards they might be exposed to in this type of migration.

According to an IOM study published in January 2017 on Burkinabe migrants who have left for Libya and took part in an assisted voluntary return program carried out by IOM, 6 per cent of the surveyed migrants did not have civil status documents or documents proving their national identity¹⁸. UNHCR will scale up its support to the Government for an effective and sustainable implementation of the national plan action to address statelessness. This plan includes activities related to nationality determination and documentation.

For people of concern to UNHCR identified in mixed flows, as well as those recognized refugees in the country, settlement in Burkina Faso may not always be the preferred option. In addition to scaling up attractive and meaningful livelihood opportunities, increased solutions will be sought such as family reunification and study or labour mobility schemes will be explored. Safe and dignified voluntary repatriation will also be contemplated.

Partnerships and coordination

UNHCR maintains a strong collaboration with the Government as well as all stakeholders such as the UNCT for inclusion of issues related to mixed migration in UNDAF programming. The Office will work with IOM and relevant authorities to ensure the identification and protection of victims of trafficking. The Office will seek to establish a working group with IOM and the Government to best address challenges related to movements crossing Burkina Faso in the direction of Libya.

¹⁸ *Analyse des données sur les migrants de retour volontaire de la Libye au Burkina Faso des 20 septembre et 27 Octobre 2016.*

Planned activities

Favourable protection environment	
Law and policy	Strengthen the Government's capacity to manage borders in a protection-sensitive manner with fast, fair and effective procedures and identify people with specific needs for protection and assistance.
Legal assistance and legal remedies	Set up legal clinics for counselling in cooperation with IOM through outreach at key crossing points on the routes to Libya; detention monitoring and interventions in Kantchari particularly.
Access to the territory and risk of refoulement	Train local authorities, security and defence forces on international refugee protection, along UNHCR's 10-Point Plan in Action on refugee protection and mixed migration.
Public attitude towards people of concern	Promote a credible information campaign to counter smugglers narrative.
Fair protection processes and documentation	
Reception conditions	Enhance infrastructure and equipment of CONAREF. Set up a faster and decentralized capacity to register and determine asylum and statelessness claims.
Individual documentation	Issue biometric IDs in a harmonized and timely manner.
Family reunification	Advocate with targeted countries for facilitated family reunification procedures.
Status Determination	Strengthen and improve refugee status determination system while proving more support to the Government of Burkina-Faso.
Security from violence and exploitation	
Protection from crime	Support with information the coordination efforts of the relevant law enforcement authorities to identify and prosecute persons involved in smuggling and trafficking.
Risk of SGVB and quality of response	Identify, register and support people with specific needs, including SGBV survivors and victims of trafficking.
Protection of children	Operationalize the inclusion of children on the move in national child protection systems in partnership with UNICEF.
Sensitization/Communication for change	Conduct massive sensitization campaign to inform candidates for migration on the dangerousness of the journey to Europe through Libya.
Basic needs and essential services	
Food security	Deliver food assistance to prevent onward movements.
Shelter and infrastructure	Deliver transitional shelters.
Energy	Provide access to energy in order to facilitate children's educational activities.
People with specific needs	Provide immediate assistance to people with heightened protection risks, including unaccompanied and separated children.
Education	Deliver assistance to prevent onward movements.

Durable solutions	
Comprehensive Solutions strategy	Provide meaningful alternatives to onward movement to people of concern to UNHCR such as labour mobility and mobility for refugee students, researchers and entrepreneurs through active outreach targeting the European Union as well as the African continent.
Voluntary return realized	Increase voluntary repatriation in safety and dignity.
Reduction of statelessness	Support returning migrants (voluntary returns with IOM or other forms of returns) in the confirmation and verification of their nationality. Establish civil status documents for returning migrants in support of the Burkina Faso government and OIM.
Community empowerment and self-reliance	
Community mobilization	Raise awareness through targeted mass information programs on local media and social media, as well as at key transportation hubs along the routes on risks and alternative protection services and engage grass root civil society.
Peaceful coexistence	Mainstream inclusion of host population in programming to foster peaceful coexistence in the Sahel region.
Natural resources and shared environment	Fight desertification by recovering degraded land in the Sahel region.
Self-reliance and livelihoods	Set up vocational trainings and income generating activities for the benefit of youth and host populations.
Leadership, coordination and partnership	
Coordination and partnerships	Strengthen data collection, analysis and evaluation of mixed migration flows; information sharing with all relevant stakeholders including IOM and Government, local actors, UNHCR offices in the region; support national and regional dialogues on challenges associated with refugee protection in mixed flows and develop a pro-active field-based cooperation and coordination with IOM.
Logistics and operations support	
Logistics and supply	Purchase one 4x4 vehicle and two motorcycles.
Operations management, coordination and support	Contract a consultant to analyze the scope of the problem and inform UNHCR strategy and plan of action and set up a mixed team.

Financial requirements

UNHCR's 2017 ExCom-revised budget for Burkina Faso in response to the Central Mediterranean Route Situation amounts to \$480,000. To address the needs of people of concern, UNHCR has established a supplementary budget for the requirements presented above for amounting to \$3,462,520 million, bringing revised requirements for the activities presented above to \$3,942,520.

	ExCom Budget and subsequent adjustments related to the Central Mediterranean Route Situation	Additional requirements (As of June 2017)	Total
Favourable protection environment	-	150,000	150,000
Law and policy	-	20,000	20,000
Legal assistance and legal remedies	-	30,000	30,000
Access to the territory and risk of refoulement	-	30,000	30,000
Public attitude towards people of concern	-	70,000	70,000
Fair protection processes and documentation	-	195,000	195,000
Reception conditions	-	75,000	75,000
Status determination	-	20,000	20,000
Civil registration and civil status documentation	-	80,000	80,000
Family reunification	-	20,000	20,000
Security from violence and exploitation	-	75,000	75,000
Protection from crime	-	50,000	50,000
Risk of SGBV and quality of response	-	20,000	20,000
Protection of children	-	5,000	5,000
Basic needs and services	-	710,000	710,000
Food security	-	100,000	100,000
Shelter and infrastructure	-	330,000	330,000
Energy	-	90,000	90,000
People with specific needs	-	75,000	75,000
Education	-	115,000	115,000

Durable solutions	-	705,000	705,000
Comprehensive Solutions strategy	-	60,000	60,000
Voluntary return realized	-	620,000	620,000
Reduction of statelessness	-	25,000	25,000
Community empowerment and self-reliance	380,000	535,000	915,000
Community mobilization	-	25,000	25,000
Peaceful coexistence	-	60,000	60,000
Natural resources and shared environment	-	50,000	50,000
Self-reliance and livelihoods	380,000	400,000	780,000
Leadership, coordination and partnerships	100,000	30,000	130,000
Coordination and partnerships	100,000	30,000	130,000
Logistics and operations support	-	836,000	836,000
Logistics and supply	-	65,000	65,000
Operations management, coordination and support	-	771,000	771,000
SUBTOTAL	480,000	3,236,000	3,716,000
Support costs (7 per cent)	-	226,520	226,520
TOTAL	480,000	3,462,520	3,942,520

Chad

Existing response

Chad is observing an important movement of refugees and migrants crossing its borders into Libya. In 2016, UNHCR started gathering information on numbers and trends, mainly in relation to movements towards Libya and most specifically the Ouaddaï region in Abéché. The eastern migration route to Libya goes to Abéché, Faya-Largeau via the town of Kalait in the northern part of Chad. The departures from Chad to Libya also concern refugees who are present in high numbers in the east.

According to local authorities, in 2016 between 400 to 700 people of Sudanese, Cameroonian, Congolese (the Democratic Republic of the Congo), Central African, Guineans, Nigerian and Nigeriens nationalities are reportedly transiting Abéché on their way north to Libya. Some of those transiting eastern Chad include people in need of international protection including ethnic Darfuris from Sudan, Eritreans, and Somalis, and may also include unaccompanied or separated children. In addition, Chad is hosting more than 391,200 refugees and 124,300 IDPs.

It should be noted that although quantitative information on migration flows to, through and from Chad is still scarce, IOM has set up a project in northern Chad, which will provide important information on the subject in the near future. UNHCR intends to complement IOM efforts to ensure that people of concern in these mixed flows are properly identified and protected while in Chad. The Office will also have a particular attention to Ndjamena city, a transiting hub where protection risks are high.

Strategy and coordination

Response strategy

UNHCR will develop targeted information and sensitization campaigns through community-based approach and using local media to inform population of concern in both camps and urban areas about the risks and dangers inherent to the possible outcome of their irregular movements to Libya and the central Mediterranean route to reach Europe.

Through interactive forums, the Office will gather information to understand the root causes and reasons for undertaking these dangerous journeys and identify with them effective alternatives.

UNHCR will establish community-based networks to collect information, conduct analysis and commission specific studies on the trends and nature of primary, secondary and onward movements of refugees and migrants to, through and from Chad to Libya and onward flows to Europe.

The Office will monitor and report on the situation of people of concern in mixed flows, identify risks and needs and through cooperation and coordination with the government and relevant partners, deliver quality protection, assistance and solutions through strategically placed programmes such as towards the Libyan border.

UNHCR will ensure the effective and timely registration and documentation of people of concern and identify people with specific needs as well as ensure their integration into all protection and assistance activities and responses such as multi-purpose cash assistance. The Office will also work with IOM and the competent authorities to ensure the identification and protection of victims of trafficking.

Finally, UNHCR will organize national dialogues in cooperation with IOM and the government of Chad to promote the strengthening of institutional management of mixed migration and delivery of protection and solutions, along with capacity and institution building in fair and efficient asylum procedures, protection sensitive border management, adequate reception capacity, effective protection and solutions.

Partnerships and coordination

UNHCR intends to partner with the IOM, the Ministry for Territory and Local Governance / *Commission Nationale d'Accueil des Réfugiés et des Rapatriés* (CNARR) and the Ministry for Security in the protection of people of concern in mixed flows in Chad. The traditional partnership with the government counterpart, CNARR, will be sustained and reinforced. UNHCR will also seek, through the different Ministries, the gradual and practical integration of mixed movements into national plans, jointly with the UNCT.

In partnership with the Government and IOM, UNHCR will establish and co-lead a Mixed Migration Task Force in Chad which will help strengthen alliances to address challenges related to the plight of those caught up in mixed movements in Chad.

Planned activities

Fair protection processes and documentation

Reception conditions	Monitor mixed flows, provide services including psychosocial and legal assistance and multi-purpose cash assistance for accommodation, food, transport targeting 4,000 people most vulnerable people of concern.
Individual documentation	Support the Government in delivery of machine-readable travel documents for people in need.

Leadership, coordination and partnership

Coordination and partnerships	Organize one National and regional forum, provide technical and logistic to the National Task force, facilitate common situation analysis, including incident reporting and identification of people with specific needs.
	Strengthen national and local protection capacities and implement sensitization campaigns.

Financial requirements

UNHCR's 2017 ExCom-revised budget for Chad in response to the Central Mediterranean Route Situation amounts to \$150,000. To address the needs of people of concern, UNHCR has established a supplementary budget for the requirements presented above amounting to \$2,300,500, bringing revised requirements for the activities presented above to \$2,450,500.

	ExCom Budget and subsequent adjustments related to the Central Mediterranean Route Situation	Additional requirements	Total
Fair protection processes and documentation	-	1,750,000	1,750,000
Reception conditions	-	1,500,000	1,500,000
Individual documentation	-	250,000	250,000
Leadership, coordination and partnerships	150,000	400,000	550,000
Coordination and partnerships	150,000	400,000	550,000
SUBTOTAL	150,000	2,150,000	2,300,000
Support costs (7 per cent)	-	150,500	150,500
TOTAL	150,000	2,300,500	2,450,500

MALI

Existing response

Mali is confronted with the phenomenon of mixed movements both as a country of origin and as a country of transit. Amid a deteriorating security situation with absent or limited authorities in the north and the centre of the country, and a fragile political and socio-economic landscape, the protection environment for people in mixed flows is limited. The main migratory routes towards Europe run through Mopti-Gao-Kidal-Algeria, Menaka-Niger-Libya and Timbuktu-Algeria.

The large majority of those transiting through Mali originate primarily from Guinea, Senegal, Gambia, Cote d'Ivoire and Niger. Malians originating from the south, Kayes and to a lesser extent Bamako, also embark on these migratory routes through Sevare-Douentza in the region of Mopti towards Algeria where no visa is required to enter the country.

Mali does not, for the time-being, have an existing programme focusing exclusively on mixed movement, however it is engaged in related activities such as strengthening the asylum space, providing community-based livelihood activities for refugees and host communities prone to migration, activities in support of the government aimed at responding to the IDP crisis, preventing and responding to statelessness, and facilitating return and reintegration for people of concern, all programmes including affected local populations.

Strategy and coordination

Response strategy

Through protection monitoring activities particularly at key passage points in the regions of Gao, Kidal, Mopti, and Timbuktu, UNHCR will aim at strengthening the delivery of protection and assistance to people of concern and affected local populations in Mali with a view to reinforcing their resilience, integration and reintegration capacity. This means giving them meaningful alternatives to risking their lives through irregular movements. The reinforcement of national and local capacities in registration and documentation, child protection will be pursued, along with awareness raising campaigns and reintegration activities, particularly livelihood activities for youth (female and male).

In order to strengthen protection monitoring in the context of mixed flows, the Office will deploy an increased number of protection monitoring agents, including at major bus stations and check points to identify, collect and refer protection cases identified. Among key points of interest include bus

stations such as those located in Gao (Bani, Sonéf, Nour, Binke Folona), Mopti (Sévaré), Menaka, Bamako and Timbuktu.

In collaboration with partners, in particular IOM, UNHCR will provide counselling with the aim of orienting people of concern with specific needs to relevant state services and partners for protection and assistance. Emphasis will be placed on unaccompanied children, as well as survivors of SGBV. UNHCR will also work with IOM and the competent authorities to ensure the identification and protection of victims of trafficking.

Capacity building to strengthen registration and civil documentation will continue through the support of a modern civil registration system to improve documentation, reduce statelessness and facilitate local integration. With regard to the north and centre of Mali specifically, returnee registration points will be strengthened to ensure the effective identification, registration, and civil documentation, including birth certificates and facilitate the exercise of their rights. The establishment of a one-stop shop where service provision and referral to social and administrative services will facilitate reintegration and further stabilize local populations is envisaged.

Differentiated information campaigns on the inherent risks of onward movement and existing protection and solutions alternatives will be delivered on a large-scale in the regions of Kayes, Bamako, Mopti, Gao and Timbuktu targeting persons of concern and host communities. UNHCR will look to engage the assistance of the Malians Abroad Ministry and Malians living abroad to support its campaigns.

Additionally, advocacy efforts will be made to sensitize relevant authorities, including border patrols and police, on the rights of refugees and asylum-seekers, the protection needs of unaccompanied and separated children and victims of trafficking in the context of mixed flows. Moreover, innovative social media campaigns will be developed to tell the real story in local languages, particularly targeting youth (female and male in mixed flows /crisis affected areas).

Reintegration activities will focus on providing increased livelihood assistance for people of concern and host communities in order to support their integration, but also to provide a meaningful alternative to smuggling. Community-based livelihood projects integrated with ongoing development and rehabilitation efforts will help strengthen community resilience to respond to socio-economic instability, which is prone to smuggling.

Partnerships and coordination

The coordination of humanitarian activities is conducted by the humanitarian country team, within which UN agencies, donors and NGOs participate. To strengthen the collective response to irregular migration in and from Mali, and building upon the current UNCT engagement in strengthening the Humanitarian and Development Nexus, UNHCR will explore the added value of establishing a Mixed Migration Working Group to address related challenges, in close coordination with IOM, the UNCT and other relevant partners.

Through the Multi-Year Multi-Partner Protection and Solutions Approach, the Office has been engaged with a diverse range of partners for the inclusion of all people of concern into long-term stabilization and socio-economic development activities in Mali.

Planned activities

Fair protection processes and documentation	
Civil registration and status documentation	Provide individual identity documents to people of concern.
Favourable protection environment	
Law and Policy	30 focus groups as part of the advocacy campaign conducted on the risk of irregular migration.
	30 sensitization sessions conducted on risk of refoulement.
Administrative institutions and practice	Train 18 registration agents at 9 registration points.
Access to the territory and risk of non refoulement	Provide equipment and material to 20 civil registration centres.
Security from violence and exploitation	
Protection from effects of armed conflict	Deploy 28 protection-monitoring agents.
Risk of SGVB and quality of response	Identification and referral assistance to 50 SGBV survivors.
Protection of children	Identification and assistance referral for 100 unaccompanied children.
Durable solutions	
Integration	Provide legal support to 250 refugees for their naturalization.
Community empowerment and self-reliance	
Self-reliance and livelihoods	Support 250 refugees awaiting naturalization.
	Provide livelihood assistance to 27 associations including youth and women (cash assistance, supplies and training).
Leadership, coordination and partnership	
Coordination and partnerships	Strengthen data collection, analysis and evaluation of mixed migration flows; information sharing with all relevant stakeholders including IOM and Government, local actors, UNHCR offices in the region.
Operations management, coordination and support	Support national and regional dialogues on challenges associated with refugee protection in mixed flows and develop a pro-active field-based cooperation and coordination with IOM.
Logistic and operations support	
Logistics and supply	Purchase fuel for lights vehicles/ Maintenance and reparation of lights vehicles.

Financial requirements

UNHCR's 2017 ExCom-revised budget for Mali in response to the Central Mediterranean Route Situation amounts to \$75,000. To address the needs of people of concern, UNHCR has established a supplementary budget for the requirements presented above for amounting to \$1,000,000, bringing revised requirements for the activities presented above to \$1,075,000.

	ExCom Budget and subsequent adjustments related to the Central Mediterranean Route Situation	Additional requirements (As of June 2017)	Total
Favourable protection environment	75,000	60,000	135,000
Law and policy	-	30,000	30,000
Administrative institutions and practice	50,000	-	50,000
Access to the territory and risk of refoulement	25,000	30,000	55,000
Fair protection processes and documentation	-	125,000	125,000
Civil registration and civil status documentation	-	125,000	125,000
Security from violence and exploitation	-	175,000	175,000
Protection from effects of armed conflict	-	50,000	50,000
Risk of SGBV and quality of response	-	75,000	75,000
Protection of children	-	50,000	50,000
Durable solutions	-	34,579	34,579
Integration	-	34,579	34,579
Community empowerment and self-reliance	-	300,000	300,000
Self-reliance and livelihoods	-	300,000	300,000
Logistics and operations support	-	240,000	240,000
Logistics and supply	-	150,000	150,000
Operations management, coordination and support	-	90,000	90,000
SUBTOTAL	75,000	934,579	1,009,579
Support costs (7 per cent)	-	65,421	65,421
TOTAL	75,000	1,000,000	1,075,000

Ethiopia

Existing response

Due to its geographical location in the Horn of Africa and in the context of global migration patterns, Ethiopia remains a country of transit and destination country for large-scale movements facilitated by smuggling and human trafficking networks. It is confronted with the challenge of providing protection to an increasing number of refugees from its neighbouring countries. It is also a major country of origin of mixed movements towards Southern Africa, but also across the Arabic peninsula, lesser to Europe.

The onward movement of Eritrean refugees across Libya predominantly affects those coming from Shire. According to a number of UNHCR assessments, as well as the recent 2016 UNHCR-Danish refugee council joint Study on the Onward Movement of refugees and asylum-seekers¹⁹ from Ethiopia, Eritrean refugees in the Shire camps are the group most likely to irregularly move onwards from Ethiopia, with 56 per cent indicating an intention to do so.

The main motivations behind the decision to move onwards include the general feeling of hopelessness, the lack of access to work and livelihoods, inadequate or insufficient education opportunities, limited alternatives in terms of resettlement or skills-based regular migration, the role of the diaspora as family and peer pressure and other protection issues such as fears of sexual exploitation, early forced marriage and insecurity from other refugees. Family reunification with relatives in Ethiopia or abroad is also a motivation for exit as, among the Eritrean unaccompanied and separated children, 80 per cent report having relatives outside Eritrea, of which 35 per cent are in Europe.

In order to reduce the prevalence of refugees embarking in onward movements, mainly to Libya and Europe, the Office invested in increased livelihood opportunities and employability of refugees in the formal and informal sectors, along with the expansion of the out of camp policy, increased recreational and educational opportunities and more systematic follow up on missing children. The implementation of the “*Live, Learn and Play Safe initiative*” along with the Regional Strategy and Regional Plan of Action on Smuggling and Trafficking from the East and Horn of Africa proved effective in alleviating some of the risks related to irregular movements across Sudan to Libya and onward. These activities continue and need strengthening.

¹⁹ <https://resourcecentre.savethechildren.net/library/unhcr-child-protection>

Strategy and coordination

Response strategy

UNHCR, in consultation with partners, has developed a comprehensive protection and solutions strategy to outline priority interventions for Eritrean refugees in Ethiopia. The strategy covers the period 2017-2020 and outlines priority interventions aimed at strengthening alternatives to onward movements through investment in comprehensive solutions, improved access to education, increased livelihoods, improved living conditions and enlarged resettlement and legal migration opportunities for a very young and mobile population.

The three principal objectives of the strategy are: (1) developing and reinforcing refugees' capabilities through education and livelihoods; (2) preserving and enhancing the protection environment and living conditions for refugees, including food security and access to other basic services; and (3) expanding solutions, including the expansion of resettlement opportunities, legal migration pathways such as family reunification as well as local integration.

To address the various challenges faced by Eritrean refugees in Ethiopia, UNHCR and partners will undertake a number of interventions to improve basic services, strengthen the protection environment and expand access to solutions. All interventions apply a strong community based protection approach, ensuring full empowerment and ownership of the refugees and the host community and mainstreaming age, gender and diversity

Ethiopia being a CRRF roll-out country, UNHCR's operation will focus on developing and implementing a solutions and development strategy that ensures lifesaving assistance and support for refugees in the pursuit of durable solutions and sustainable host community-refugee relations. Partnerships with the World Bank and other key international development actors, as well as the private sector, will be pursued, drawing lessons upon existing lessons learned from UNHCR's operation in Ethiopia and globally. The implementation of the Government of Ethiopia's pledges will expand refugees' access to opportunities to become self-reliant, including towards local integration.

Together with donors, line ministries, partners and NGOs, the Government's Administration for Refugee and Returnee Affairs (ARRA) and UNHCR are working to materialize these pledges into significant outcomes, all of which will strengthen the overall protection and assistance provided for refugees, and will allow them to become more independent. An updated refugee proclamation has been drafted to provide the legal framework for providing access to rights and opportunities, and structures to support and accompany the implementation of the pledges are being established.

The interventions geared towards Eritrean refugees will be linked with, and take advantage of, all interventions initiated by public, private, humanitarian and development organizations operating in the areas hosting Eritrean refugees.

Partnerships and coordination

In Ethiopia, UNHCR relies on close collaboration with the Government's Administration for Refugee and Returnee Affairs (ARRA) in coordinating the refugee response. UNHCR strategy towards Eritrea refugees in Tigray and Afar has been elaborated in close consultation with the refugees and host communities, national and local authorities and the wider humanitarian actors.

Advocacy is continuing to interest other resettlement countries in selecting refugees from Ethiopia and to explore other legal migration pathways, as the decrease in arrivals in the United States Refugee Admission Program (USRAP) has led to a reduction in the submission target for Eritreans from 2000 to 750 in 2017. Under the humanitarian corridors initiative, 500 refugees in Ethiopia (Eritreans, Somalis and South Sudanese) will be provided on opportunity for a durable solution through private sponsorship to Italy over the next year.

Through close coordination and advocacy with Embassies in Addis Ababa and UNHCR offices overseas, informational support, and collaboration with Ethiopian authorities UNHCR is striving to actively assist refugees with relatives overseas to access family reunification opportunities.

Planned activities

Favourable protection environment

Legal assistance and legal remedies

550 people of concern will receive legal assistance.

A legal officer will be hired for each camp to provide legal assistance and legal follow up on refugee cases.

4 capacity building workshops pertaining to refugee protection, mixed movement, human trafficking and other areas for law enforcement and judiciary branch of the government will be organized.

Material support such as printer and photocopier will be provided to the law enforcement and judiciary branch to reduce the existing gaps in legal service provision and one legal clinic will be established.

Access to the territory and risk of refoulement

Conduct and record 4 level one border-monitoring visit.

Fair protection processes and documentation

Reception conditions

35,000 newly arrived Eritrean refugees will be received in the established reception areas in Tigray, which will meet the minimum reception conditions standards.

Provide capacity building to improve the reception conditions of new arrivals at the 3 sub-reception centres namely known as Debedebo, Rama and Adi-Nebriid.

Build 2 blocks of residential compounds, an eating area and a water borehole at Endabaguna.

80 personnel from the law enforcement, judicial and boarder management trained on international refugee laws and reception of new arrivals.

Provide 2 additional buses in order to enhance the transportation services available for the new arrivals from the border areas.

Registration and profiling

Issue proof of registration for refugees.

Individual documentation

Issue ID and travel documents to 15,412 people, which will support the operation to reach 59 per cent of people of concern with individual protection documentation by the end of 2017.

Civil registration and status documentation

Increase access of refugee children to national systems including birth registration. Thus, 22 per cent of the children under 12 months old will have been issued birth certificates by the authorities by the end of 2017.

Provide essential material support to national and regional BOLSA and birth registration offices.

Family reunification

Support 1,500 people of concern with family reunification within the operation and with relatives abroad.

Security from violence and exploitation

Prevention of and response to SGBV

Strengthen awareness-raising programs targeting all people of concern at all ages for active participation to combat SGBV (22 community-based committees/ groups working on SGBV prevention and response established).

Empower women and girls economically, eliminating their dependence and vulnerability to SGBV by promoting women's participation in livelihood, IGA and education programmes.

	Build capacity by providing trainings and materials for law enforcement and judicial bodies.
	Provide PEP kit and medical support to all rape cases reported within 72 hours. 60 survivors of SGBV will receive legal assistance while 370 SGBV survivors will receive psychosocial counselling.
Protection of children	At least 60 per cent of the identified children with disabilities will receive specific support.
Basic needs and essential services	
Health	Access to primary health care services will be provided in all camps by maintaining operational and properly equipped 24 health facilities and ensuring that the health facilities have essential drugs in stock for the distribution to patients.
Reproductive health and HIV services	Comprehensive safe motherhood services will be provided by hiring 30 qualified midwives/MCH staff. As a result, it is expected that skilled personnel will attend 100 per cent of live births.
	People of concern will have access to male and female condom as a mean to prevent HIV/AIDS and other sexual transmitted diseases and for family planning purposes.
Nutrition	Appropriate infant and young child feeding practices promoted by establishing IYCF programmes targeting children 0-24 months in all camps. It is expected with this intervention to keep the Prevalence of global acute malnutrition (6-59 months) to 10 per cent, as per the standard.
Food security	Food Basket Monitoring (FBM) will be conducted on a regular basis in order to ensure that the food basket meets the recommendations of the latest needs assessment.
Water	18 water systems will be maintained, allowing the operation to maintain the 20 litres of water per person provided in the camps.
Sanitation and hygiene	Environmental health and hygiene campaigns will be implemented in all camps, reaching a population of 55,000 people. Furthermore, 3,925 household latrines will be constructed. Thus, 80 per cent of the refugees living in camps will have a household latrine.
Shelter and infrastructure	Provide transitional shelter to 2,000 households; increase the percentage of the Eritrean refugees living in camps with adequate dwelling from 54 to 66 per cent.
Energy	Promote alternative and renewable energy by providing solar lantern. Streetlight will be also installed providing lighting to 70 per cent of the public places.
Basic and domestic items	Provide sanitary materials to all women and girls of reproductive age.
	86 per cent of the population will meet the needs for basic and domestic items by distributing core-relief item kit especially to new arrivals.
People with specific needs	Support to people of concern with specific needs provided to 2,000 people, representing 80 per cent of people of concern with disabilities and 100 per cent of older people of concern.
Education	Access to all level of education will be provided. 2,200 children aged 3-5 will be enrolled in early childhood education; 8,000 children will be enrolled in primary education; 1,100 students will be enrolled in secondary education; and 580 people will receive scholarships for tertiary education. Furthermore, 30 youth clubs or committees will be operational.
	Improve primary education quality and learning achievements.

Durable solutions	
Resettlement realized	Build capacity and train staff and implement of anti-fraud mechanisms.
	Submit 1,600 resettlement registration forms (RRFs).
Community empowerment and self-reliance	
Community mobilization	Conduct 40 community empowerment campaigns.
	Support 8 community groups with representation of females in each structure (equal participation).
	Mentoring and training of mentoring as existing social structures and associations.
Peaceful coexistence	Increase access to camp services to the host community.
	Implement 8 peaceful coexistence projects, including a water project on Sarneta dam, which will specifically support Mytsebri town.
Natural resources and shared environment	400,000 different indigenous and exotic tree seedlings and fruit trees will be germinated in the four nursery sites.
	Build 80 hectares of terraces.
	Proper maintenance and care will be given after plantation to ensure the survival rate of at least 70 per cent after one year of the plantation.
Self-reliance and livelihoods	2,000 people will participate in community-based group savings, loans and insurance schemes.
	Provide 1,500 people with entrepreneurship / business training.
	89 per cent of technical skills training students who graduate (successful completion and receipt of certification)

Financial requirements

UNHCR's 2017 ExCom-revised budget for Ethiopia in response to the Central Mediterranean Route Situation amounts to \$32,749,751, presented in the table below.

	ExCom Budget and subsequent adjustments related to the Central Mediterranean Route Situation	Additional requirements (As of June 2017)	Total
Favourable protection environment	612,478	-	612,478
Legal assistance and legal remedies	341,239	-	341,239
Access to the territory and risk of refoulement	271,239	-	271,239
Fair protection processes and documentation	2,903,721	-	2,903,721
Reception conditions	1,266,232	-	1,266,232
Registration and profiling	878,772	-	878,772
Individual documentation	371,239	-	371,239
Civil registration and civil status documentation	121,239	-	121,239
Family reunification	266,239	-	266,239
Security from violence and exploitation	4,307,099	-	4,307,099
Risk of SGBV and quality of response	874,302	-	874,302
Protection of children	3,432,797	-	3,432,797
Basic needs and services	15,888,631	-	15,888,631
Health	2,707,760	-	2,707,760
Reproductive health and HIV services	598,479	-	598,479
Nutritional well-being	363,092	-	363,092
Food security	115,239	-	115,239
Water	1,716,302	-	1,716,302
Sanitation and hygiene	1,323,327	-	1,323,327
Shelter and infrastructure	2,507,239	-	2,507,239
Energy	1,062,479	-	1,062,479
Basic and domestic items	2,229,700	-	2,229,700
People with specific needs	385,617	-	385,617
Education	2,879,397	-	2,879,397
Durable solutions	471,239	-	471,239
Resettlement	471,239	-	471,239

Community empowerment and self-reliance	5,962,298	-	5,962,298
Community mobilization	852,975	-	852,975
Peaceful coexistence	376,239	-	376,239
Natural resources and shared environment	876,780	-	876,780
Self-reliance and livelihoods	3,856,304	-	3,856,304
Leadership, coordination and partnerships	2,604,285	-	2,604,285
Operations management, coordination and support	2,604,285	-	2,604,285
SUBTOTAL	32,749,751	-	32,749,751
Support costs (7 per cent)	-	-	-
TOTAL	32,749,751	-	32,749,751

NIGER

Existing response

Niger is situated in a geopolitically sensitive area linking the Sahara desert with the Sahel, and West with Central Africa. The country has developed into a major hub of mixed movements northwards to Libya, Algeria and the shores of the Mediterranean. According to IOM, over 60,000 incoming people observed in flows through Niger between January and May 2017. The main routes for mixed movements from West and Central Africa to North Africa and the Mediterranean currently transit Niger, with many refugees and migrants crossing the border with Libya.

UNHCR's mixed movement programme mainly focuses on the capacity building of the government to strengthen refugee status determination (RSD). In view of the strategic importance of Niger as a country of transit and/or first asylum, UNHCR has increased its operational presence in Agadez while seeking to reinforce its monitoring capacity along new routes in order to expand its reach to persons of concern to deliver protection and offer solutions. Through a formal memorandum of understanding between the Government of Niger/IOM/UNHCR, a case referral mechanism has been established, and standard operational procedures for the referral of victims of trafficking drafted jointly by UNHCR and the National Agency to Combat Human Trafficking will facilitate the delivery of protection and the search for solutions to this vulnerable category.

Strategy and coordination

Response strategy

UNHCR main objective is to ensure that people in need of international protection have access to asylum, assistance and durable solutions, including legal pathways within and outside the ECOWAS region, without feeling obliged to resort to dangerous journeys through the Sahara and the Mediterranean.

In this context, the Office aims to ensure timely access to asylum in Niger through effective refugee status determination procedures, while upholding the quality of asylum in Niger, notably through the enjoyment of basic socio-economic rights and adequate reception conditions.

Through its protection outreach and communication strategies, and deployment of mobile teams with IOM along key migration routes, including bus stations, the Office will provide people on the move with information regarding the asylum process in Niger along with the risks entailed in moving towards Libya. The roll-out of this strategy, including the increasing use of a free-phone hotline to

provide information to people of concern regarding refugee status determination (RSD) procedures and related services, including solutions, is imperative to enable the fast referral and processing of asylum claims in Niger, reducing risky onward movements. The Office will also give particular attention to monitor places such as Arlit, where concerns have been raised about the possibility of women being forced into sex work²⁰.

There are also specific protection risks in the desert on the way to Algeria or Libya which the Office would like to mitigate by allowing anybody in distress to be able, to call up (if connected) the free (emergency) toll number for assistance. The Office would like to establish a search and rescue line directly with concerned local authorities to enable them to respond.

Border and protection monitoring in the Zinder area in view of the high number of Nigerians crossing is considered. Bribes taken along the route to Agadez makes refugees and migrants even more vulnerable to trafficking if they arrive in Agadez without enough money to carry on their journey. In addition, according to UNHCR mission assessments as well as local sources, the current fight against smugglers in the Agadez region is opening new routes with lesser controls such as the one crossing Diffa-Dirkou. There is a risk that refugees currently in Diffa may consider joining these mixed movements.

The establishment of transit centres where people of concern in Niger receive protection and assistance while their asylum claims are being processed will include the opening of temporary reception facilities in Agadez and the extension of the Niamey transit centre to allow UNHCR to attend urgent needs such as shelter, along with life-saving services and community-based protection. UNHCR will also work with IOM and the competent authorities to ensure the identification and protection of victims of trafficking and unaccompanied children.

UNHCR will support the General Directorate for Civil Status, Migration and Refugees (DGECLR) in the establishment of a decentralized asylum system in Agadez. This decentralized system will allow asylum-seekers to be registered and interviewed in Agadez rather than requiring them to travel all the way to Niamey. The National Eligibility Commission (CNE) will conduct field missions to adjudicate asylum requests lodged outside of Niamey.

Working in close coordination with IOM, a joint pool of community monitors positioned along key migration routes will provide information on the number of people transiting, their motives for having left their country of origin, and will also provide counselling to migrants and people of concern on

²⁰ Source: https://publications.iom.int/system/files/dfid_report_2016_final_sml.pdf.

alternatives to hazardous irregular migration. The information collected will feed into the mixed migration coordination structure and inform targeted action of UNHCR and its partners.

The effective development of legal alternatives to dangerous irregular movements, including through resettlement within and outside ECOWAS countries, facilitated access to family reunification and support to socio-economic integration will be sought in close coordination with RO Dakar.

The enhancement of the Office outreach capacity and interventions along with data collection and analysis in Niger will also seek to inform in a timely manner concerned UNHCR Offices throughout the sub-region, including relevant partners, about triggers, profiles, routes being used by people of concern, in a bid to strengthen pre-emptive protection and solutions measures. The establishment of a UNHCR regional (operational) mixed-migration coordination structure (including information management capacity) in Niger will aim at facilitating coordination with partners.

Partnerships and coordination

UNHCR works in close liaison with the Ministry of Interior who runs the national migration coordination body and IOM. In Agadez, a Working Group on Migration to which UNHCR is a member facilitates inter-agency coordination at local level.

Operationally, UNHCR works in close partnership and coordination with various Government structures, including IOM. In 2016 for example, standard operating procedures to facilitate the referral of asylum seekers identified by IOM, to the General Directorate for Civil Status, Migration and Refugees (DGECEMR), through UNHCR were established. This referral mechanism was subsequently formalized through a tripartite MoU (UNHCR/IOM/Government of Niger), but its effective functioning requires more oversight and follow-up.

Within the context of outreach and monitoring activities, UNHCR will work with a wide range of government agencies, the UNCT and others non-government partners, including communities.

Planned activities

Fair protection processes and documentation	
Reception conditions	Establish and expand 2 transit centres: Niamey & Agadez, provide basic services.
Status determination	Implement an outreach strategy targeting asylum seekers in mixed migration flows with information regarding the refugee status determination (RSD) process, support to the implementation of decentralized asylum procedures, strengthen refugee status determination capacity, including equipment to facilitate decentralized procedures.
Individual documentation	Provide individual identity documents to people of concern.
Family reunification	Facilitate access to family reunification.
Security from violence and exploitation	
Protection from crime	Train community focal points on monitoring and reporting along the routes.
Durable solutions	
Comprehensive Solutions strategy	Develop sound country level solution strategy on behalf of migrants.
Voluntary return realized	Refer recipients of negative refugee status determination decisions to IOM for AVRR.
Resettlement realized	Increase submission of resettlement applications.
Reduction of statelessness	Support returning migrants (voluntary returns with IOM or other forms of returns) in the confirmation and verification of their nationality. Establish civil status documents for returning migrants in support of the Niger government and OIM.
Leadership, coordination and partnership	
Coordination and partnerships	Strengthen data collection, analysis and evaluation of mixed migration flows; information sharing with all relevant stakeholders including IOM and Government, local actors, UNHCR offices in the region; support national and regional dialogues on challenges associated with refugee protection in mixed flows and develop a pro-active field-based cooperation and coordination with IOM.
Emergency management	Develop and put in place emergency management mechanism.
Logistics and operations support	
Logistics and supply	Purchase fuel for lights vehicles/ Maintenance and reparation of lights vehicles.
Operations management, coordination and support	<p>UNHCR works in close liaison with the Ministry of Interior who runs the national migration coordination body and IOM. In Agadez, a working group on Migration to which UNHCR is a member facilitates inter-agency coordination at local level.</p> <p>Within the context of outreach and monitoring activities, UNHCR will work with a wide range of government agencies, the UNCT and others non-government partners.</p>

Financial requirements

UNHCR's 2017 ExCom-revised budget for Niger in response to the Central Mediterranean Route Situation amounts to \$2,745,000. To address the needs of people of concern, UNHCR has established a supplementary budget for the requirements presented above for amounting to \$10,914,000, bringing revised requirements for the activities presented above to \$13,659,000.

	ExCom Budget and subsequent adjustments related to the Central Mediterranean Route Situation	Additional requirements (As of June 2017)	Total
Fair protection processes and documentation	1,045,000	5,350,000	6,395,000
Reception conditions	900,000	2,500,000	3,400,000
Status determination	145,000	2,500,000	2,645,000
Individual documentation	-	250,000	250,000
Family reunification	-	100,000	100,000
Security from violence and exploitation	-	500,000	500,000
Protection from crime	-	500,000	500,000
Durable solutions	1,700,000	2,250,000	3,950,000
Comprehensive Solutions strategy	1,700,000	500,000	2,200,000
Voluntary return realized	-	100,000	100,000
Resettlement	-	150,000	150,000
Reduction of statelessness	-	1,500,000	1,500,000
Leadership, coordination and partnerships	-	1,200,000	1,200,000
Coordination and partnerships	-	200,000	200,000
Emergency management	-	1,000,000	1,000,000
Logistics and operations support	-	900,000	900,000
Logistics and supply	-	300,000	300,000
Operations management, coordination and support	-	600,000	600,000
SUBTOTAL	2,745,000	10,200,000	12,945,000
Support costs (7 per cent)	-	714,000	714,000
TOTAL	2,745,000	10,914,000	13,659,000

Regional Representation For West Africa²¹

Existing response

Through the recently established Dakar Regional Mixed Migration Secretariat which is co-chaired by UNHCR, common analysis, sharing of information and cooperation on issues related to mixed migration were undertaken. Developing a common understanding of mixed movements in West Africa, providing an informal platform to exchange and analyse trends, programs and policies, developing common communication and advocacy are some of the objectives pursued. Joint sensitization activities along with capacity building through training in Senegal, Burkina Faso and the Gambia are ongoing with UNHCR, IOM, Save the Children and UNODC. Building on a survey on the central Mediterranean migration route published by UNICEF²², A child mobility project led by Save the Children with Regional mixed Migration Secretariat (RMMS) engagement seeks to increase data related to children on the move.

Through a “Mixed Migration Monitoring Mechanism Initiative (“4Mi”)” established early 2017, UNHCR aims at responding to the lack of data regarding mixed migration in West Africa. 4Mi is an innovative, low-cost approach to collect and analyze data on mixed movements along major corridors using a network of monitors stationed at key hubs in which migrant smuggling and migrant movement occur. 4Mi enables the collection of a broad range of information regarding people on the move, both quantitative and qualitative. Improved data related to people on the move will help UNHCR define its regional and national programmatic responses to the needs of people on the move, as well as it will inform programs and activities of other concerned partners.

ECOWAS has acknowledged that statelessness is an issue of significance in the region and has set up a policy and legal framework to eradicate this scourge. One of the key action is to ensure that anyone who is entitled to the nationality of an ECOWAS country receive documentation, including those who are stranded abroad. In the Banjul Plan of Action adopted in May 2017, all ECOWAS member states have agreed to specific actions to document their nationals residing on their territories or abroad, which should in the context of mixed flows facilitate family reunion processes, and voluntary return for people with no travel documents²³.

²¹ The Regional Representation for West Africa include activities in Benin, Côte d'Ivoire, Gambia, Ghana, Guinea, Guinea Bissau, Liberia, Nigeria, Senegal, Sierra Leone and Togo.

²² UNICEF survey, 'A deadly journey for children, the Central Mediterranean migration route', February 2017.

²³ UNHCR estimates that there is at least one million stateless persons in West Africa, and that over 60 million are at risk of statelessness because they lack civil status documentation.

Strategy and coordination

Response strategy

UNHCR Regional Representation for West Africa which covers a number of source and transit countries will endeavour to raise awareness among West African countries of origin of the dangers facing their citizens as a result of irregular migration and steps they can take to reduce these risks. It will pursue, in coordination with RRMS partners, data collection and analysis to better understand the phenomena and design appropriate programmatic responses. Through better data collection and analysis, the Office will also help to identify consistent or emerging protection risks along the routes within the region towards Libya and work with the offices in the region to help to respond to the related abuses and facilitate access to solutions, including through information programmes with IOM in selected countries of origin in West Africa not listed above. UNHCR will support an inter-agency strategic approach to the issue of people smuggling and trafficking in the region.

It will also seek to strengthen the protection environment for people of concern in mixed flows, including through adequate reception capacity (with related services), mobile refugee status determination capacity in countries in need of support as well as community-based protection. It will seek to increase the potential for solutions throughout the sub-region, including through resettlement, family reunion (targeting particularly unaccompanied children), return and other legal pathways in countries impacted by the movement. It will finally reinforce partnership and coordination, including through capacity building of governments in registration, documentation and solution delivery, and thematic dialogues with IOM in selected countries of origin.

Within the framework of the Banjul Plan of Action, UNHCR will continue to support ECOWAS and States in the implementation phase, with priority given to the strengthening of civil registration procedures, including those in need of regularisation. It will also support the establishment of an ECOWAS mechanism to assist in identifying and documenting ECOWAS nationals abroad (provided in Plan of Action).

Partnerships and coordination

UNHCR will reinforce cooperation and coordination with ECOWAS, the Governments of Nigeria, Côte d'Ivoire, Guinea, Gambia, Guinea Bissau, Sierra Leone, Liberia and Senegal as well as with partners such as UNODC, IOM, DRC, Save the Children, UN Country Team and various civil society organizations in order to implement its strategy.

Planned activities

Favourable protection environment

International and regional instruments	Organize in collaboration with ECOWAS and selected Governments a Protection Dialogue.
Law and policy	Facilitate a three-day Expert Meeting followed by a two days Ministerial High Level Meeting on mixed movements to develop a common approach to issues such as trafficking.
Public attitude towards people of concern	Undertake mass information campaigns in selected countries of origin and create forums to discuss with youth the dangers of irregular migration and ways to help people avoid making these dangerous journeys.

Fair protection processes and documentation

Registration and profiling	Support Governments in identification, documentation and profiling of migrants (equipment, training and one exchange visit with FRONTEX in Italy. Support ECOWAS engagement in facilitating regularisation of ECOWAS nationals.
Status determination	Strengthen refugee status determination procedures.
Family reunification	Advocate and program for facilitated family reunification in favour of people with family links abroad.

Security from violence and exploitation

Risk of SGBV and quality of response	Support the establishment of safe houses for women victim of sexual abuse and child victims of abuse.
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Durable solutions

Comprehensive Solutions Strategy	Develop sound regional solution strategy on behalf of migrants.
Reintegration	Support return and reintegration of 500 returnees of concern to UNHCR (including cash-based intervention and reintegration monitoring).

Leadership, coordination and partnership

Coordination and partnerships	Establish a Mixed Migration Unit to support coordination at political level with, ECOWAS and concerned Governments as well as with regional partners. The team will be composed of a Senior Protection Officer to head the Unit, along with two consultants Protection Officers and a Protection associate, which will include travel across the region.
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Financial requirements

UNHCR's 2017 ExCom-revised budget for the Regional Representation for West Africa in response to the Central Mediterranean Route Situation amounts to \$254,000. To address the needs of people of concern, UNHCR has established a supplementary budget for the requirements presented above for amounting to \$2,771,300, bringing revised requirements for the activities presented above to \$3,025,300.

	ExCom Budget and subsequent adjustments related to the Central Mediterranean Route Situation	Additional requirements (As of June 2017)	Total
Favourable protection environment	-	250,000	250,000
International and regional instruments	-	50,000	50,000
Law and policy	-	100,000	100,000
Public attitude towards people of concern	-	100,000	100,000
Fair protection processes and documentation	-	90,000	90,000
Registration and profiling	-	50,000	50,000
Status determination	-	20,000	20,000
Family reunification	-	20,000	20,000
Security from violence and exploitation	-	150,000	150,000
Risk of SGBV and quality of response	-	150,000	150,000
Durable solutions	254,000	1,500,000	1,754,000
Comprehensive Solutions strategy	254,000	-	254,000
Reintegration	-	1,500,000	1,500,000
Leadership, coordination and partnerships	-	600,000	600,000
Coordination and partnerships	-	600,000	600,000
SUBTOTAL	254,000	2,590,000	2,844,000
Support costs (7 per cent)	-	181,300	181,300
TOTAL	254,000	2,771,300	3,025,300

SUDAN

Existing response

Sudan serves both as a country of destination and a country of transit for refugees and migrants from East and Horn of Africa. It is however also a country of origin. By the end of 2017, Sudan is expected to host some 600,000 refugees and asylum-seekers or more, with over 15 per cent originating from Eritrea. Large volumes of refugees and migrants also pass through Sudanese territory into neighbouring states, principally Libya, due to a well-organized network of smugglers, working to move people through Sudan to their destinations.

According to the Sudanese authorities, smuggling and trafficking, including kidnapping, has increased in the border areas between Sudan, Egypt, and Libya. One of the most widely cited transit hubs is a camp near Khartoum and Omdurman known to migrants as “Hajar”. This camp reportedly hosts mainly Eritreans, followed closely in number by Ethiopians, Sudanese, and a small number of Syrians and Yemenis. This hub serves as a final staging point before transporters move the people into the south-eastern quadrant of Libya.

Eastern Sudan has also long been notorious as a zone for various types of smuggling and trafficking. The two principal routes pass through the Kassala and Gedaref areas where smugglers take advantage of long and poorly controlled borders and large refugee camps. From this point the routes divide up, with some migrants continuing their journey westward towards Khartoum and its environs, while others turn north towards Egypt and the Libyan border.

Cross border tribes between Sudan and Eritrea have collaborated with Egyptian and Eritrean criminal networks to smuggle and traffic thousands of people via Sudan and Egypt into Israel from 2006. However, in 2013 Israel completed a 230 kilometres barrier on its frontier with Egypt at the same time the Sudanese and Egyptian authorities intensified their efforts to stem human smuggling and trafficking along this route. Having lost this route the criminal networks turned to new smuggling and trafficking routes from Ethiopia and Sudan opening in the west, taking increasing numbers of Eritreans, Somalis, Ethiopians and Sudanese across the desert to Libya from where they aim to reach European countries.

The demographics of the Eritreans arriving in Eastern Sudan recently are changing. In the past, Eritrean arrivals were mostly highlanders from the immediate environs bordering Sudan. Recently the new arrivals comprise single individuals from the lowlands and as far as Asmara and Massawa. Some claim to have come for reasons of family reunification while majority claim to fleeing the

endless national service. The majority of the new arrivals indicate their desire to move to Khartoum and beyond in search of brighter prospects.

UNHCR has been providing protection and basic assistance to both refugees living in a protracted situation and new arrivals. For protracted refugees, UNHCR continued to provide humanitarian assistance through provision of water, sanitation, health and education and self-reliance initiatives. A renewed Self-Reliance Strategy that aims at enhanced economic self-reliance, reduction of aid dependency and promotion of sustainable co-existence between the refugees and host communities was developed in close partnership with COR both for new arrivals and the old caseload.

In addition, UNHCR continues to consolidate gains made in 2016 in terms of key strategic objectives, including continuation of the “Strategy to Address Human Trafficking, Kidnappings and Smuggling of Persons in Sudan – Strengthening Alternatives to Onward Movements (2015-17)” jointly developed by UNHCR, IOM, UNODC, UNICEF and UNFPA.

In this regard, UNHCR increased its presence in the camps in the East and ensured a constant dialogue with refugees on issues related to trafficking/smuggling and insecurity caused by onward movement. Cooperation with the police and NISS has been strengthened in combatting trafficking through deployment of additional officers to Shagarab and increased patrolling around the camps and in border areas. Capacity building and material support is provided. In addition, legal interventions have improved through continuous provision of legal aid to people of concern and establishment of special counter-trafficking/smuggling court in the East through collaboration between UNHCR and the Government.

Assistance to people of concern comprises access to registration and RSD processing, medical and psycho-social support, education as well as resettlement and family reunification. UNHCR runs two safe houses in Kassala for victims of trafficking and provides material support, including financial assistance and livelihood, to victims of trafficking in Khartoum. UNHCR has established strong partnerships with law enforcement agents (NISS, Police investigations department and Office of the Prosecutor), which facilitate access to detention centres to ensure access to asylum for people of concern to UNHCR.

Strategy and coordination

Response strategy

In Sudan, UNHCR works with the authorities, at federal and state levels, to coordinate the refugee response. In eastern Sudan, which is the focus for measures under this initiative, collaboration with the authorities will continue under the joint anti-trafficking strategy led by UNHCR and other UN agencies. Action to address the needs of the new arrivals in Sudan continue to be necessary to ensure the achievements made under the joint strategy to date are maintained, including efforts to reduce the incentives for onward movement and dialogue with refugee communities on the underlying reasons for migration and the dangers of irregular migration.

In partnership with the Government of Sudan, UNHCR has established as a priority the strengthening of reception facilities in border areas in eastern Sudan. UNHCR also plans to strengthen its interventions in northern Sudan, particularly in Dongola city, where refugees, asylum seekers and migrants caught along the Egyptian and Libyan border are detained and processed under immigration law. A priority is also to secure access to asylum procedures, including through protection sensitive border management, registration, transportation and emergency assistance for new arrivals, and improved security in the camps. UNHCR also aims at providing more sustainable programmes for refugees both in camps and urban areas in order to enhance their self-reliance and build on their capacities and skills. These programmes target host communities as well with a view to ensuring peaceful coexistence, improving the quality of services, and enhancing livelihood opportunities for refugees.

UNHCR will also continue to work with the Government of Sudan on asylum policies and increasing opportunities for livelihood, education and social integration. In order to increase refugees' self-reliance, UNHCR is enhancing its partnership with other UN agencies such as FAO to create livelihoods opportunities and support for refugees in eastern Sudan. UNHCR will also continue to identify refugees in need of resettlement, including family reunification in the east of the country, as well as Khartoum, as part of a comprehensive approach to solutions for refugees in Sudan. Through a participatory approach, UNHCR continues to involve refugees in the design of programmes to address the most critical gaps, which include child protection and prevention and response to SGBV, including trafficking.

Partnerships and coordination

In a quest to improve co-ordination, and to address onward movements which have resulted in instances of trafficking and kidnapping, UNHCR and Government agencies (the Commissioner for Refugees, National Intelligence Security Service (NISS), Police Investigation Department and office of the prosecutor) have formed an ad hoc committee to address issues of mixed movement and the general refugee situation in East Sudan. This strengthened collaboration is consistent with meeting the objectives set out in the 2015-2017 UN joint strategy to address human trafficking, kidnapping and smuggling of persons.

An inter-agency coordination mechanism for the implementation of the joint anti-trafficking strategy is in place. Under this framework, IOM and UNHCR are jointly working on the finalization of the National Committee on Counter Trafficking’s Action Plan.

Planned activities

Favourable protection environment	
Access to legal assistance and legal remedies	<p>Provide direct legal assistance to and ensure legal representation of 650 people through legal partners in Khartoum.</p> <hr/> <p>Organize 9 Trainer of Trainers sessions for 75 community leaders from Khartoum, Khartoum North, Omdurman, Atbara, Dongola and Aljazira.</p> <hr/> <p>Hire additional lawyers to strengthen legal support services to victim of trafficking (VoT) in Port Sudan.</p>
Access to territory improved and risk of refoulement	<p>Onward movement survey and report - Research objective opinions and perceptions of POCs with regards to reasons behind the general interest in onward movement, most preferred travel routes, mode of travel/preferred facilitation process, most preferred destination, family ties abroad etc.</p>
Fair protection processes and documentation	
Reception conditions	<p>Recruit a P3 Mixed Migration Officer in Khartoum to ensure coordination and oversee the implementation of mixed migration activities in Sudan.</p> <hr/> <p>Provide counselling and support to 100 survivors of trafficking or at risk of being trafficked in Khartoum.</p>
Security from violence and exploitation	
Protection from crime	<p>Strengthen age, gender, and diversity sensitive community security system; and support capacity development.</p> <hr/> <p>Ensure standard working procedures at Police and criminal justice staff to guarantee the physical safety of victims, protect their privacy and make it safe for them to testify against their abusers. These issues are part of UNHCR/IOM human trafficking training for police, prosecutors and judges.</p>

	<p>Install of 1,000 solar street lights to ensure safety of persons of concern and facilitate border monitoring in Northern Sudan (border areas with Libya and Egypt). Having this type of equipment will contribute to preventing smuggling and trafficking.</p>
	<p>Distribute 4 vehicles and 30 motor cycles to Sudanese Law Enforcement Police in Northern Sudan (Dongola town) and Khartoum (Khartoum North and Omdurman) to monitor smuggler and trafficker areas and to transport VoTs to safe houses or safe centres.</p>
Protection of children	<p>Distribute 10 laptops and 2 multi-purpose printers to Sudanese Law Enforcement Police in Northern Sudan (Dongola town) and Khartoum (Khartoum North and Omdurman) to enhance documentation and recording of statistics on smuggling and trafficking.</p>
Capacity development	<p>Conduct information campaigns on regular onward movement and risk of trafficking.</p>
	<p>Strengthen psychosocial support of VoTs in camps.</p>
	<p>Build capacity and raise awareness of law students on human trafficking through the organization of a symposium at Law Student University.</p>
Basic Needs and Essential Services	
Health	<p>Provide access to primary health care services to 1,000 people of concern through medical referrals.</p>
Services for people with specific needs	<p>Strengthen health services in Port Sudan for urban refugees</p> <p>Provide psychosocial support for 160 people of concern with psychosocial needs.</p>
Community Empowerment and Self Reliance	
Self-reliance and livelihoods	<p>Conduct 3 focus group discussions amongst targeted population as part of participatory assessment.</p> <p>Provide vocational training and start-up kits to 400 people of concern</p> <p>Provide 100 grants for business start-up.</p>

Financial requirements

UNHCR's 2017 ExCom-revised budget for Sudan in response to the Central Mediterranean Route Situation amounts to \$2,352,574, presented in the table below.

	ExCom Budget and subsequent adjustments related to the Central Mediterranean Route Situation	Additional requirements (As of June 2017)	Total
Favourable protection environment	154,947	-	154,947
Legal assistance and legal remedies	125,141	-	125,141
Access to territory and risk of refoulement	29,806	-	29,806
Fair protection processes and documentation	175,615	-	175,615
Reception conditions	175,615	-	175,615
Security from violence and exploitation	1,317,695	-	1,317,695
Protection from crime	920,298	-	920,298
Protection of children	360,952	-	360,952
Capacity development	36,445	-	36,445
Basic needs and services	388,752	-	388,752
Health	372,356	-	372,356
People with specific needs	16,396	-	16,396
Community empowerment and self-reliance	315,565	-	315,565
Self-reliance and livelihood	315,565	-	315,565
SUBTOTAL	2,352,574	-	2,352,574
Support costs (7 per cent)	-	-	-
TOTAL	2,352,574	-	2,352,574

NORTH AFRICA

Regional strategy and coordination

Regional strategy

The North Africa subregion continues to experience large and complex mixed movements from sub-Saharan Africa to the Middle East, notably to Libya and further onwards from Libya to Europe. With few exceptions, systems to manage the complexities of mixed movements in a protection-sensitive manner remain nascent. Capacity and available resources are limited with responses primarily guided by national security and political concerns.

UNHCR advocates with Libyan authorities to find alternatives to detention and to ensure that basic needs and standards are met inside detention centres. UNHCR also encourages authorities to adopt protection-sensitive approaches, including during rescues at sea, with due respect for the principle of non-refoulement, emergency assistance delivery upon disembarkation to survivors of rescue at sea and interception incidents. Overall, UNHCR reinforces national capacities in Libya by reaching out to key officials, civil society and other actors and offering training on core protection principles and refugee law. The Office is seeking to expand its operational presence in order to increase its protection outreach and service delivery, including solutions for people of concern.

UNHCR's response to refugee protection in mixed movement situations in North Africa, including in relation to departures and arrivals via the Mediterranean Sea, focuses on four strategic objectives:

- (1) preventing refoulement;
- (2) improving access to territory and to asylum;
- (3) informing refugees and migrants about their options and warning them about the dangers of irregular movement by land or sea; and
- (4) enhancing protection space and access to solutions for all refugees irrespective of their nationality within and through broader policy responses.

In North Africa, UNHCR seeks to prevent refoulement and strengthen access to territory through capacity building with authorities, civil society and local communities on protection-sensitive migration management systems and border procedures. UNHCR also achieves outcomes under this objective by advocating for improved access and monitoring of border points, disembarkation points and detention facilities; raising awareness of international law obligations and providing infrastructure support to the authorities; providing legal and material assistance to refugees;

advocating for and supporting the development of alternatives to detention and responding to allegations or incidents of refoulement.

Through support to national authorities, civil society and local communities, UNHCR works towards strengthening initial reception capacities and improving access to asylum, in the absence of comprehensive national frameworks. Measures to achieve this objective are built upon the promotion of information sharing and coordination of responses; jointly agreed screening mechanisms, standard operational and referral procedures; provision of humanitarian assistance to people of concern after rescue or interception at sea or upon transfer to detention; establishment of medical and screening points at disembarkation locations; promotion of use of individual early risk identification mechanisms and referral to assisted voluntary return programs of rejected asylum-seekers.

UNHCR implements a number of measures to empower refugees to take informed decisions about their lives. Strategic messaging and advocacy is amplified as part of broader efforts to raise awareness about the risks of smuggling and trafficking, other related protection risks and promote awareness of legal avenues to protection. Measures in the North Africa region presently include strengthening systems to monitor social media and other online platforms with respect to the dynamics of irregular movements and spreading of false information; disseminating information through a variety of outreach means, including leaflets, posters, social media, individual counselling, and through community-based protection activities; and raising awareness through information campaigns with partners.

Under the objective of enhancing protection space and access to solutions within and through broader migration policy responses, UNHCR is increasing resettlement opportunities as well as other safe and legal avenues available to persons in need of protection, that include private sponsorship resettlement programmes, refugee student visas, humanitarian visas, and family reunification. Some support for voluntary repatriation will also be provided where conditions are conducive to the realization of this solution.

Partnerships and coordination

Proactive engagement, partnership and cooperation are pursued with government authorities, international organizations with complementary mandates (IOM, UNICEF, UNODC and ICRC), as well as civil society stakeholders. Part of such engagement is centred on the exchange of experiences at country-level and capacity as well as joint advocacy with civil society actors and international organizations.

Furthermore, joint work with IOM, UNICEF, ICRC and NGOs is ongoing with respect to providing coordinated humanitarian assistance and support to those rescued at sea, screening at borders and referral to relevant mechanisms on the basis of identified needs and vulnerabilities, awareness raising and information dissemination and access to assisted voluntary return for rejected asylum-seekers.

UNHCR also cooperates at regional level with inter-agency fora such as the Regional Mixed Migration Secretariat in Nairobi and the North African Mixed Migration Task Force and Mixed Migration Hub in Cairo, contributing to trends analysis and information management on refugee flows, routes and trends that will ultimately strengthen capacity for evidence-based policy and program development.

Libya

Existing response

UNHCR's existing response in Libya currently focuses on five key strategic objectives: 1) Preventing *refoulement*; 2) Improving access to territory and asylum; 3) Providing humanitarian assistance and strengthening access to comprehensive solutions for the most vulnerable; 4) Strengthening advocacy and promoting access to rights and basic services to throughout Libya; and 5) Maintaining and enhancing UNHCR's coordination role and partnerships with other agencies. The activities present complement the supplementary appeal for Libya launched in June.

UNHCR identifies, registers and documents people in need of international protection through hotlines, via its three community development centres in Tripoli and Benghazi and through outreach visits conducted by partners who also provide support to people with specific needs, including unaccompanied children and victims of trafficking, as well as newly released refugees and asylum-seekers with compelling protection needs. While currently limited to registering those who hail from seven nationalities as specified by the Libyan authorities, efforts are underway to expand the list to allow UNHCR to reach all those in need of international protection.

UNHCR advocates with Libyan authorities for adequate reception conditions and for alternatives to detention and to ensure that basic standards and needs are met inside detention centres. UNHCR and its partners, IMC and LibAid, have access to 27 detention centres run by Libyan authorities and so far in 2017, a total of 332 persons were released, including a group of women held by ISIS in Sirte.

UNHCR also encourages authorities to uphold the safety and dignity of those rescued at sea including, through the delivery of emergency material and medical assistance delivery upon disembarkation. Overall, UNHCR reinforces national capacities in Libya by reaching out to key officials, civil society and other actors and offering training on core protection principles and refugee law.

Strategy and coordination

Response strategy

UNHCR's comprehensive strategy aims to expand the scope of protection and assistance provided to refugees and asylum-seekers, whether on the move, in urban areas or in detention facilities. Its components are inter-linked and mutually reinforcing, thereby ensuring a comprehensive and holistic approach to dealing with the crisis in Libya. Many of the proposed activities are already undertaken by UNHCR, albeit on a smaller scale.

To ensure broad protection outreach and early identification of the most vulnerable people for timely provision of appropriate responses in the South of Libya, UNHCR will expand its presence in key strategic locations. In addition to opening a Sub-Office in Sabha, three Community Development Centres (CDC) will facilitate the provision of medical, psychosocial and in-kind assistance to an average of 1,000 people per monthly. The CDCs will be based in Al Ghatroun, Kofra and Sabha, in the proximity of the main migration routes into Libya.

To facilitate protection monitoring at disembarkation points and in close liaison with IOM, UNHCR will scale up its presence in 12 disembarkation points with a permanent presence in at least six. Activities will include permanent and mobile medical assistance and distribution of core relief items. Targeted age and gender-specific interventions, including addressing SGBV, will be included as well as strengthening protection capacities of the Libyan Coast Guard, through training and provision of light equipment for registration and other activities.

Through increased access to detention centres across the country (34 detention facilities instead of current 27) along additional capacity, UNHCR will strive to provide life-saving assistance and advocate for enhanced screening of persons with specific needs, identification and registration. The Office will promote alternatives to detention and seek the release of unaccompanied and separated children as well as vulnerable people. The Office will work on care arrangements for children and family tracing.

In line with the Humanitarian Needs Overview and Humanitarian Response Plan for Libya for 2017²⁴, UNHCR will strengthen support to conflict-affected populations, including host communities. To maximise impact, a mapping of institutions and actors along with targeted guidance and support in programming will help strengthen local partners' capacities and broaden UNHCR's base of partners.

²⁴<http://reliefweb.int/sites/reliefweb.int/files/resources/2017%20Libya%20Humanitarian%20Response%20Plan%20%28EN%29.pdf>.

In addition, capacity building initiatives for Libyan authorities both in Libya and in Tunis will be pursued to ensure the sustainability of the humanitarian response and foster ownership, including on refugee protection.

Advocacy and increased outreach to civil society and communities, including through information-sharing mechanisms and mass information campaigns will underline the challenging protection environment in Libya and the risks associated with the journey along the central Mediterranean route. Engagement on social media, focus group discussions, and joint participatory assessments will form the basis for programming on further communication with local communities.

With regard to solutions, UNHCR will increase resettlement submissions as well as voluntary returns, along with advocacy for predictable resettlement quotas, facilitated family reunification and scaled up legal admission avenues for vulnerable refugees. Along with partners, UNHCR is also exploring temporary evacuation options to third countries to process cases of people in needs for protection and solution purposes.

Partnerships and coordination

While maintaining leadership on the refugee response, UNHCR will closely coordinate with UN agencies, authorities and concerned partners the response to the humanitarian needs in Libya, including those accounted in mixed movement flows. As part of the Humanitarian Response Plan, UNHCR leads the Protection, Shelter/Core relief items and Cash sector groups, as sub-group of the Humanitarian Country Team.

As outlined in the 2017 Humanitarian Response Plan (HRP) for Libya, UNHCR and IOM are co-leading the Mixed Migration Working Group, which remains the main platform to coordinate protection and assistance to refugees and migrants in Libya. In line with the Joint Operational Framework for the Humanitarian Response in Libya, signed on 8 March 2017, UNHCR and IOM will expand their activities in line with their respective mandates. Collaboration and division of tasks with IOM is being formalized through the finalization of standard operating procedures, in particular for assistance upon disembarkation, in detention centres and with regards to voluntary returns.

Planned activities

Favourable protection environment

Administrative institutions and practice	Undertake an assessment on “communication with communities”, followed by a mass information campaign.
Access to the territory and risk of refoulement	<p>Conduct a cash market monitoring and feasibility study.</p> <p>Provide light communications and IT equipment (e.g. generators, desktops, radios) to 100 Libyan Coast Guards involved in night rescue operations.</p> <p>Strengthen the capacity of 100 Libyan Coast Guard staff for registration of refugees and migrants intercepted/rescued at sea and for coordination and communication.</p> <p>Support Libyan officials with IT and biometrics equipment for the purpose of registration upon disembarkation and provide technical training.</p>

Fair protection processes and documentation

Registration and profiling	Register an average of 300 individual asylum claims monthly through the three community development centres operating in the south of Libya.
Status determination	<p>Issue UNHCR documentation to registered asylum-seekers and refugees, as a protection tool against refoulement, arbitrary arrest and detention.</p> <p>Coordinate with the Regional MENA Refugee Status Determination (RSD) hub for additional support through training, capacity building of national staff and also for deployment of international RSD experts to support the operation.</p>

Security from violence and exploitation

Prevention of and response to SGBV	Provide psychosocial support to an estimated 1,000 vulnerable people and strengthen referral mechanisms.
Detention and freedom of movement	<p>Identify temporary shelter for an estimated 100 vulnerable cases, rotating locations for security reasons.</p> <p>Provide legal assistance for all victims of SGBV including victims of trafficking.</p> <p>Identify refugees, asylum-seekers and vulnerable cases in detention through regular visits and advocate for the release of a monthly average of 20.</p>
Protection of children	<p>Increase partner staff that have experience working with children, including carrying out best interest of the child determination.</p> <p>Build capacity of partners and officials and provide trainings.</p>

Basic needs and essential services

Health	<p>Distribute multi-propose cash grants to IDPs to support access to basic services, including healthcare.</p> <p>Establish three emergency mobile medical teams to reach a monthly average of 1,000 vulnerable people on the move in Al Ghatroun and Sabha.</p> <p>Set up medical teams at six disembarkation points, with a mobile component to dispatch as needed, to assist a monthly average of 6,000 people.</p>
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	<p>Provide basic medical assistance to 100 people and refer 500 people on a monthly basis, through the community developments centres.</p>
	<p>Set up six additional mobile medical units to reach people of concern (two in Al Ghatroun, two in Kofra and two Sabha).</p>
Basic domestic items	<p>Procure and preposition 8,000 core relief items to address new internal displacement and/or sudden emergencies, which will include associated transport, logistical and administrative arrangements.</p>
	<p>Increase in-kind and cash-based assistance to reach 16,500 people (30,000 households) in a situation of protracted displacement or affected by the conflict, including host communities.</p>
	<p>Support 2,500 refugees (around 500 households) with core relief items and/or cash assistance. Standardized core relief items kit has been designed in accordance with identified needs as well as sector requirements.</p>
Durable solutions	
Voluntary return realized	<p>Coordinate with IOM to refer and facilitate the voluntary return of an estimated 100 people.</p>
Resettlement realized	<p>Scale up capacities to identify, interview, process and resettle 420 refugees.</p>
Leadership, coordination and partnership	
Donor relations and resource mobilization	<p>Reinforce capacities to provide regular information on UNHCR programmes and activities in Libya.</p>
Logistics and supply	
	<p>Purchase and preposition core relief item kits for distribution to people of concern, and maintain warehouse in the south (Sabha).</p>
Operations management, coordination and support	<p>Liaise and advocate with the international community and partners to address humanitarian needs in Libya.</p>

Financial requirements

UNHCR's 2017 ExCom-revised budget for Libya in response to the Central Mediterranean Route Situation amounts to \$54,073,262, presented in the table below.

	ExCom Budget and subsequent adjustments related to the Central Mediterranean Route Situation	Additional requirements (As of June 2017)	Total
Favourable protection environment	2,706,928	-	2,706,928
Administrative institutions and practice	2,051,917	-	2,051,917
Access to the territory and risk of refoulement	655,011	-	655,011
Fair protection processes and documentation	7,525,486	-	7,525,486
Registration and profiling	5,612,531	-	5,612,531
Status determination	1,912,955	-	1,912,955
Security from violence and exploitation	7,054,806	-	7,054,806
Risk of SGBV and quality of response	1,573,443	-	1,573,443
Detention and freedom of movement	4,429,545	-	4,429,545
Protection of children	1,051,818	-	1,051,818
Basic needs and services	23,698,018	-	23,698,018
Health	7,770,799	-	7,770,799
Basic and domestic items	15,927,219	-	15,927,219
Durable solutions	2,720,114	-	2,720,114
Voluntary return	667,646	-	667,646
Resettlement	2,052,468	-	2,052,468
Leadership, coordination and partnerships	525,909	-	525,909
Donor relations and resource mobilization	525,909	-	525,909
Logistics and operations support	7,365,138	-	7,365,138
Logistics and supply	1,802,129	-	1,802,129
Operations management, coordination and support	5,536,009	-	5,536,009
SUBTOTAL	51,596,399	-	51,596,399
Support costs (7 per cent)	2,476,863	-	2,476,863
TOTAL	54,073,262	-	54,073,262

Algeria

Existing response

Algeria is a transit country for refugees and migrants from West Africa, primarily moving through Mali and to a lesser extent through Niger. The main transit hub for Sub-Saharan Africans is Tamanrasset in the south of Algeria. Since beginning of 2017, the majority of Syrians approaching the Office in Algiers reportedly transit through Debdeb, located at the Algerian border with Libya. Boat departures from Algerian shores to Europe, e.g. Italy and Spain, are few and mostly consist of Algerians.

Despite officially closed borders with all neighbouring countries except Tunisia, refugees and migrants do reach Algeria, likely through smugglers.

In the absence of formal referral mechanisms, people in need of international protection can contact UNHCR through its hotline number, email address or through informal sources. UNHCR can only register asylum claims in Algiers. The Algerian Government does not produce asylum or migration statistics. UNHCR has no access to most parts of Algeria (essentially the south).

In the absence of a national asylum framework, protection activities are essentially carried out by UNHCR and partner organizations. UNHCR conducts registration of asylum-seekers and refugee status determination, provides documentation, assistance and resettlement to suitable cases.

Registered asylum-seekers (approximately 6,200) and refugees recognized by UNHCR (approximately 250) do not have a legal status in Algeria and consequently face numerous challenges with regard to their freedom of movement, access to economic and social rights, livelihoods and self-reliance. The situation often creates other protection problems such as difficulties to secure affordable housing, abuse and exploitation in the informal labour sector, or unemployment and reliance on limited UNHCR assistance. UNHCR provides basic assistance to the most vulnerable registered refugees and asylum-seekers.

In December 2016, an operation by law enforcement agencies resulted in the removal of some 1,500 sub-Saharan nationals from Algiers, including a small number of registered refugees and asylum-seekers to Tamanrasset and Niger.

Strategy and coordination

Response strategy

With regard to national legislation, UNHCR supports the process of adoption of the draft asylum law that will provide the necessary normative framework of a functioning asylum system.

In line with UNHCR's efforts to focus on community-based protection and to engage with civil society, support to income-generating activities and vocational training needs to be complemented through the active engagement of other stakeholders in supporting refugees to live a more dignified life.

Access to self-reliance and livelihoods is challenging due to the legal and socio-political context; resettlement is therefore likely to remain the only available durable solution for the most vulnerable refugees. Prospects for voluntary repatriation remain limited as also confirmed by feedback during focus group discussions and participation assessments.

Specific protection needs, especially those of unaccompanied children, women at risk and victims of trafficking are prevalent among the sub-Saharan migrant and refugee population. UNHCR and IOM work closely to identify and reinforce suitable response mechanisms that could benefit all persons in need, in collaboration with relevant Government actors and civil society. UNHCR aims to strengthen the existing response mechanism for asylum-seekers and refugees with a number of activities, including capacity building and advocacy. UNHCR seeks notably to actively strengthen its partnership with the Ministry of National Solidarity with the aim of integrating people of concern in existing national programmes.

Partnerships and coordination

UNHCR's direct counterparts on refugee issues are the Ministry of Foreign Affairs for political matters, especially the Algerian Bureau for Refugees and Stateless persons.

In Algiers, UNHCR works with three national NGOs. Through the establishment of a civil society network as part of the MENA Civil Society Network for displacement coordination, UNHCR also strengthened its cooperation with other civil society actors in Algeria.

Planned activities

Fair protection processes and documentation

Registration and profiling

Profiling of people of concern planned and undertaken (100 per cent of people of concern for whom data disaggregated by sex, age, location and diversity is available; 100 per cent of people of concern registered on an individual basis).

Update Registration data on a continuous basis (100 per cent of registration data updated during the last year).

Basic needs and essential services

Health

Access to primary health care services provided or supported (access of people of concern to national/government primary health care facilities ensured; Do regular coordination meetings take place between UNHCR, MoH and partners).

Provide cash grants or vouchers (multi-purpose) (110 households receiving cash grants).

Provide sanitary materials (50 women receiving sanitary materials).

Provide seasonal and complementary items (20 households receiving seasonal support).

People with specific needs

Support to people of concern with specific needs: 150 of people of concern with specific needs receiving in-kind support.

Leadership, coordination and partnership

Coordination and partnerships

Hold regular coordination meeting of stakeholders involved in refugee protection UNHCR's direct counterparts on refugee issues are the Ministry of Foreign Affairs for political matters, especially the Algerian Bureau for Refugees and Stateless persons. In Algiers, UNHCR works with three national NGOs; coordination, also with other civil society actors is strengthened through the establishment of a civil society network as part of the MENA Civil Society Network for displacement.

Effective coordination will be enhanced through monthly/quarterly meetings, consultations and information sharing and with partners on operational issues and solutions.

Logistics and operations support

Operations management, coordination and support

Build capacity and train relevant partners to strengthen the service delivery of the proposed interventions (in-service training, workshop and other training opportunities) and provision of adequate IT equipment for UNHCR's partners in Algiers.

Financial requirements

UNHCR's 2017 ExCom-revised budget for Algeria in response to the Central Mediterranean Route Situation amounts to \$88,986, presented in the table below.

	ExCom Budget and subsequent adjustments related to the Central Mediterranean Route Situation	Additional requirements (As of June 2017)	Total
Fair protection processes and documentation	34,274	-	34,274
Registration and profiling	34,274	-	34,274
Basic needs and services	30,415	-	30,415
Health	14,454	-	14,454
People with specific needs	15,961	-	15,961
Leadership, coordination and partnerships	2,000	-	2,000
Coordination and partnerships	2,000	-	2,000
Logistics and operations support	22,297	-	22,297
Operations management, coordination and support	22,297	-	22,297
SUBTOTAL	88,986	-	88,986
Support costs (7 per cent)	-	-	-
TOTAL	88,986	-	88,986

Egypt

Existing response

Egypt remains both a transit and a destination country for refugees and asylum-seekers. The majority come from Syria, Iraq and sub-Saharan Africa, including Eritrea, Ethiopia, Somalia, South Sudan and Sudan. Egypt has also been a country of origin for migrants crossing by land to Libya in search of economic opportunities or to Europe by sea.

Although the general protection environment is stable, challenges affecting the refugee population in Egypt remain numerous, including visa limitations and access to territory, as well as a cumbersome and lengthy process for the issuance of residence permits. Limited livelihood opportunities, language barriers for non-Arabic speaking African refugees as well as increased inflation and living costs constitute additional challenges.

This precarious protection environment, coupled with the loss of hope in a resolution of the situation in their country of origin, has contributed to the increase of refugees and asylum-seekers departing irregularly from Egypt. Foreign nationals attempting to enter or depart Egypt irregularly are subject to administrative detention. The Government nevertheless maintains a consistent policy towards releasing detainees registered with UNHCR regardless of their nationality. For those who are unregistered, deportation orders are issued including to those holding an appointment to register with UNHCR.

The Government of Egypt applies strict controls at the border areas, especially with Libya. Periodic access allows UNHCR to partially verify the status and assist people in need of international protection intercepted while attempting to cross the border from and to Libya, in particular in Marsah Matrouh and Salloum.

Through its visits to various detention centres on the North coast, UNHCR is able to assess the profile and status of persons in detention, identify vulnerabilities and suggest referrals, provide emergency assistance and health care, advise the authorities on the most appropriate response and solutions, and, provide counselling to persons in need of international protection. This periodic access facilitates the dissemination of information on dangerous crossings within the refugee community.

While refugees share problems similar to those of the host community, they are among the most vulnerable of the urban poor and they encounter additional challenges as a result of their legal status. Significant administrative barriers limit access of refugees to work permits leading them to

resort to employment in the grey economy and exposing them to risks of labour exploitation and abuse. For the most vulnerable refugees and asylum-seekers, UNHCR extends support with cash grants.

Preventive health care is free of charge and a nominal consultation fee is applicable for curative consultations. UNHCR supports national efforts at improving the quality of services and strengthening the health system's ability to meet the needs of refugees as well as the host population in refugee impacted areas. UNHCR and partners also provide mental health. The Ministry of Health is supported through capacity building and equipment.

Access to the Egyptian public education system is limited to selected foreign nationalities. UNHCR provides education grants to families with children of school age and continuously advocates with the government of Egypt for the inclusion of refugees and asylum-seekers of all nationalities in the public education system.

Strategy and coordination

Response strategy

Egypt's comprehensive strategy aims to expand the scope of protection and assistance provided to refugees and asylum-seekers and focuses on preserving the protection space, enhancing access to asylum, preventing refoulement and ensuring effective protection in Egypt. Protection advocacy and increased engagement with the Government will help achieve this objective, along with effective and innovative partnerships as well as capacity building.

The strategic use of timely registration, refugee status determination (RSD) and resettlement with a view to improve identification, profiling and assessment of special needs towards the best use of assistance and solutions will be undertaken, along with a reinforced program to address SGBV and child protection issues. Systematic documentation of protection interventions, data collection and trend analysis will inform UNHCR programming.

Inclusion of refugees and asylum-seekers of all nationalities in the public health and education systems will be pursued and the office will seek to strengthen refugee's resilience, including through livelihood programming. Direct and targeted assistance for the most vulnerable, including through cash based interventions, will continue. Solutions oriented and sustainable community-based protection programmes will be informed by enhanced community participation, outreach and communication with refugees and asylum-seekers.

The Office will enhance its advocacy to seek greater access and humanitarian assistance to foreign nationals arrested in the context of attempted irregular movement.

Partnerships and coordination

The Inter-Agency Working Group chaired by UNHCR Representative oversees all processes related to advocacy and funding while the Inter-Sector Working Group (ISWG) encourages synergies and complementarities between sectors of intervention. The ISWG also facilitates the flow of information between sector working groups. It is composed of heads of UN humanitarian agencies and NGOs working with refugees.

UNHCR works closely with the Government of Egypt to find appropriate solutions for refugees, asylum-seekers and other groups involved in mixed migration. UNHCR and the Passports and Immigration Office conduct the joint verification of detainees and with the Ministry of Foreign Affairs and National Security, UNHCR advocates for their release, access to asylum and solutions.

UNHCR also plays a key role in overall coordination and response for persons of concern caught in mixed migration movements and detained, with a range of NGO and UN agencies partners delivering humanitarian assistance. On a monthly basis, UNHCR chairs the Detention Working Group in Alexandria, which is the main coordination body for detention response, monitoring, and reporting on detention cases and situations on the North Coast.

Planned activities

Fair protection processes and documentation

Status determination Increase the capacity of the refugee status determination unit through the recruitment of additional staff to process 1,000 refugee status procedures and thus, reduce the current backlog and waiting period.

Security from violence and exploitation

Detention and freedom of movement Advocate for the release of an estimated 100 detained asylum-seekers and refugees that are identified through state authorities, partners and the refugee community. In the context of mixed movements, conduct regular visits to detention facilities in the North Coast to deliver meals, non-food items and medical assistance to vulnerable cases. Advocate for access to those who seek international protection but are not yet registered with UNHCR.

Basic needs and essential services

Basic and domestic items Identify an estimated 3,800 vulnerable cases in need of UNHCR support and provide them with multi-purpose cash grants. Provide winter assistance to vulnerable cases.

Education Support the Government of Egypt through capacity building of teachers and establishment of computer labs in public schools. Provide education grants to an estimated 1,200 refugee families to support them in covering the education expenses for their children.

Financial requirements

UNHCR's 2017 ExCom-revised budget for Egypt in response to the Central Mediterranean Route Situation amounts to \$2,897,917, presented in the table below.

	ExCom Budget and subsequent adjustments related to the Central Mediterranean Route Situation	Additional requirements (As of June 2017)	Total
Fair protection processes and documentation	123,356	-	123,356
Status determination	123,356	-	123,356
Security from violence and exploitation	152,409	-	152,409
Detention and freedom of movement	152,409	-	152,409
Basic needs and services	2,622,152	-	2,622,152
Basic and domestic items	2,198,796	-	2,198,796
Education	423,356	-	423,796
SUBTOTAL	2,897,917	-	2,897,91
Support costs (7 per cent)	-	-	-
TOTAL	2,897,917	-	2,897,917

Morocco

Existing response

In Morocco, UNHCR supports the Government in the establishment of a national asylum system. The protection environment in Morocco is favourable and more and more refugees are able to integrate in Morocco, as an alternative to dangerous onward movement. In this context, UNHCR is working to reinforce the government's efforts to establish a national asylum system. Of note, the average length of stay among refugees tends to increase, confirming that Morocco is gradually shifting from being a transit country to becoming a destination for refugees.

As at 1st June 2017, there are 7,048 refugees and asylum-seekers registered with UNHCR Morocco. Their number is expected to increase by the end of the year due, inter alia, to the UNHCR's referral mechanism established with NGO partners in the Oriental and North regions, bordering Algeria and Melilla/Spain, respectively, that is expected to increase the number of people in Morocco having access to UNHCR.

UNHCR's main operational challenge lies with the scattering of the refugee population throughout the country. To address this challenge, UNHCR is partnering with institutions involved in the implementation of the National Strategy for Immigration and Asylum, as they become more operational, notably the National Mutual Aid. Among other activities, this has allowed UNHCR to refer a number of refugees for pre-school services as well as professional training, and to lessen the pressure on UNHCR's own resources.

Morocco made substantial progress towards improving refugee protection in recent years, namely regularisation of refugees, issuance of documents, free access to education and health services, as well as access to the labour market. People with specific needs remain however heavily reliant on UNHCR's assistance and efforts to promote and facilitate local integration must be sustained.

Strategy and coordination

Response strategy

UNHCR's strategy for 2017 focuses on: (1) Carrying registration and refugee status determination procedures, jointly with the authorities; (2) Providing humanitarian assistance and protection to refugees, in support to the national strategy for immigration and asylum (SNIA); (3) Building institutional capacity for those national actors involved in the area of asylum; and (4) Implementing

durable solutions for refugees, focusing on socio-professional integration, resettlement to a third country for the most vulnerable and repatriation wherever feasible.

The Moroccan national strategy on immigration and asylum (SNIA) is an important initiative in the region, supporting the successful local integration of the refugee and migrant population. The potential for facilitating refugee self-reliance lies mostly with the non-governmental sector, which is increasingly motivated and capable of offering support and services. The UNHCR local integration programme, which assists refugees in developing small economic projects, will therefore continue.

As the national strategy for immigration and asylum is gradually being implemented, many refugees remain in need of essential humanitarian assistance to meet basic needs. UNHCR will continue funding emergency housing for people with heightened protection risks, access to health (pending extension of RAMED, the national medical insurance scheme, to refugees) and education services, as well as financial assistance for the most vulnerable. Essential protection services will be provided through home visits, psycho-social support, and referral of survivors of SGBV. Legal assistance will be provided for the issuance of birth registration documents, notably to avoid statelessness, and legal representation before tribunals for refugee victims of violence.

Partnerships and coordination

UNHCR is engaged with institutions and actors such as Parliament, law enforcement (police, Gendarmerie, etc.), Ministry for Migration Affairs and line ministries, National Council for Human Rights, judges, bar associations, universities, as well as with journalists and NGOs. Pending the adoption of the refugee law, there is significant investment in building the capacity of key stakeholders who will play a key role in the establishment of the national asylum system. The coordination extends to UN partners, in particular IOM.

UNHCR's main official counterpart is the Ministry of Foreign Affairs and Cooperation and UNHCR also collaborates with various ministries such as Interior, Justice, Education, Health, Labour and Migration as well as other governmental bodies. UNHCR is involved in the United Nations' Development Agreement Framework (UNDAF) process, notably through the thematic groups on migration which serves as a UN coordination platform for developing a comprehensive approach to support management of mixed migration flows. In Oujda, UNHCR collaborates with the *Organisation Marocaine des Droits de l'Homme* (OMDH): a Protection Working Group bringing together OMDH and various NGOs based in Oujda working in the field of migrations allows notably referring persons seeking international protection to UNHCR. UNHCR also engages with donors, journalists and civil society to improve the protection environment and to ensure access to social services and assistance for refugees and asylum-seekers.

Planned activities

Favourable protection environment

Administrative institutions and practice	Provide training to institutional partners on international standards of protection of refugees.
Access to the territory and risk of refoulement	<p>Provide training to national officials involved in/responsible for borders' management and control (i.e. Royal Gendarmerie, Forces auxiliaries, Royal Navy immigration officials).</p> <p>Continue to build the capacities of civil society organisations for the identification and referral of asylum-seekers to the asylum procedure.</p> <p>Continue to support the Protection Working Group created in August 2014 through its implementing partner OMDH.</p> <p>Inform on legal alternatives to dangerous onward travel (asylum procedure) by IP to potential people of concern in three areas with substantial mixed migration populations (Oujda, Nador and Tangiers).</p>
Public attitude towards people of concern	<p>Set up an information video for asylum seekers, in partnership with the Journalist School of Rabat, explaining asylum procedures, and existing assistance programmes.</p> <p>Launch a video channel enabling the local population to make a virtual acquaintance with all 50+ refugee nationalities and learn about their culture, music, cuisine, traditions, etc.</p>

Fair protection processes and documentation

Status determination	Carry out 100 refugee status determination interviews monthly.
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Basic needs and essential services

Health	<p>Assist 3,200 refugees with access to primary health care as well as provision of medicines.</p> <p>Assist refugees with the reimbursement of specialist consultations, chronic medications and hospitalisations.</p> <p>Provide medical care for 302 chronically ill refugees.</p> <p>Increase secondary and tertiary health care to reach 1,800 refugees.</p>
People with specific needs	<p>Provide modest cash transfers to all registered refugees twice a year, estimated at 6,000 refugees to subsidise food/rental expenses.</p> <p>Provide monthly cash-based assistance to 1,500 refugees with specific needs.</p>
Education	<p>Support the school enrolment of 800 refugee children in primary public schools.</p> <p>Provide conditional cash for 350 children in kindergarten.</p> <p>Provide scholarships to 455 secondary level pupils and university students in Morocco.</p>

Durable solutions

Integration	Reinforce the capacity of the social centres of "Entraide Nationale" through procurement of equipment and professional training.
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Community empowerment and self-reliance

Community mobilization	Enhance capacities of all selected partners and refugee community workers through technical support and capacity development.
	Ensure 50 per cent representation of refugee women in refugee leadership structure.
Self-reliance and livelihoods	Support 100 refugees for income generating activities.
	120 refugees enrolled in formal national institutions for certified skills training.

Logistics and operations support

Operations management, coordination and support	Train Protection working group members in Oriental/North and government institutions outside the capital.
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Financial requirements

UNHCR's 2017 ExCom-revised budget for Morocco in response to the Central Mediterranean Route Situation amounts to \$399,126. To address the needs of people of concern, UNHCR has established a supplementary budget for the requirements presented above for amounting to \$615,250, bringing revised requirements for the activities presented above to \$1,014,376.

	ExCom Budget and subsequent adjustments related to the Central Mediterranean Route Situation	Additional requirements (As of June 2017)	Total
Favourable protection environment	187,935	25,000	212,935
Administrative institutions and practice	42,222	-	42,222
Access to the territory and risk of refoulement	137,713	-	137,713
Public attitude towards people of concern	8,000	25,000	33,000
Fair protection processes and documentation	71,829	-	71,829
Status determination	71,829	-	71,829
Basic needs and services	-	360,000	360,000
Health	-	60,000	60,000
People with specific needs	-	200,000	200,000
Education	-	100,000	100,000
Durable solutions	73,140	50,000	123,140
Integration	73,140	50,000	123,140
Community empowerment and self-reliance	10,222	115,000	125,222
Community mobilization	10,222	15,000	25,222
Self-reliance and livelihoods	-	100,000	100,000
Logistics and operations support	56,000	25,000	81,000
Operations management, coordination and support	56,000	25,000	81,000
SUBTOTAL	399,126	575,000	974,126
Support costs (7 per cent)	-	40,250	40,250
TOTAL	399,126	615,250	1,014,376

Tunisia

Existing response

Tunisia is receiving refugees and migrants both from outside and from within the North African region. Refugees and migrants are arriving to the country irregularly or regularly, by land, air and sea. Some may be using Tunisia as a transit point to reach Libya and Europe directly or indirectly.

Since 2012, Tunisia received several boats that had departed from Libya and were rescued at sea by the Tunisian navy or maritime National Guard. The latest boat incidents took place on 26 May and 21 June 2017. Survivors are usually disembarked and registered by the Tunisian authorities, provided humanitarian assistance by UNHCR's partner the Tunisian Red Crescent, and, for those likely to be in need of international protection, accommodated in UNHCR's collective centre.

Since mid-2016, UNHCR has observed a double phenomenon. People arriving regularly to Tunisia by plane, from sub Saharan countries for which a visa is not required to enter Tunisia, then proceed to the south in an attempt to cross to Libya and reach Europe by sea. Some groups are also directly departing from Tunisia's shores to attempt to reach Europe by boat. Others cross from Libya to Tunisia and present themselves to Tunisian security authorities at the border. These people are primarily interested in AVR as a result of the degree of abuse and exploitation experienced in Libya at the hands of smugglers.

It is clear from the above that Tunisia is directly impacted by the situation prevailing in Libya. Whether flows come from Libya (rescue at sea) or use Tunisia as a transit country to reach Libya or Europe directly, these movements are a consequence of the human smuggling and trafficking "industry" which is now well entrenched in Libya and seems to be extending into neighbouring countries. Tunisia visa exemptions, introduced to facilitate exchanges with sub Saharan partner countries, are used by people seeking to reach North Africa for the purpose of crossing to Libya and then onwards to Europe. The security measures taken to strengthen the land border between Libya and Tunisia have also contributed to make these movements more visible insofar as groups are now intercepted in either direction more systematically than before.

The figures involved are still modest. However, Tunisia does not have in place the structures and mechanisms to respond to any large scale irregular movements by sea and land and to effectively address the needs of refugees and migrants.

Strategy and coordination

Response strategy

In response to the sea arrivals starting in 2012 in Tunisia, UNHCR developed a strategy in order to provide support to the authorities to respond to rescue at sea incidents, in close collaboration with IOM.

The overall objective is to set up a predictable system to assist persons rescued at sea and disembarked in Tunisia. UNHCR drafted standard operating procedures for the reception and assistance of people rescued at sea and disembarked in Tunisia, and organized a number of capacity-building activities for the concerned Tunisian authorities as well as prepositioning of assistance items to be provided to people disembarked in Tunisia. The standard operational procedures were drafted by UNHCR in cooperation with IOM and reviewed by ICRC for elements relevant to them. They were shared and discussed with the Tunisian authorities for inputs and further improvement. The standard operational procedures were finally endorsed during a technical seminar held in Tunis in October 2016.

The standard operational procedures describe the categories of persons that usually arrive by sea and specify the role of the various governmental actors, as well as that of international and national organisations, such as UNHCR, IOM and the Tunisian Red Crescent. While they were still being drafted, all concerned actors de facto implemented them on the ground. Information leaflets to be distributed to people disembarked in Tunisia were also prepared and translated into French, English and Arabic. The various phases of disembarkation and post-disembarkation assistance were described in the standard operational procedures, namely, immediate humanitarian and medical assistance, registration by the authorities, intervention of IOM and UNHCR with migrants and refugees respectively, accommodation and processing of solutions. For people who might come under the purview of UNHCR's mandate, a profiling form has been developed that helps capture essential information, such as motives for departure from the country of origin, nature of protection received in transit countries (if any), treatment received en route and intentions in Tunisia.

Partnerships and coordination

UNHCR works in partnership and coordination with other international or national organisations based in Tunisia. UNHCR cooperates closely with key ministerial departments and other official structures. Cooperation is particularly intense with the Ministries of Justice (MoJ), Interior (MoI), Foreign Affairs (MoFA), Social Affairs (MoSA), Women, Family and Childhood (MoW), Employment (MoE) and Health (MoH). UNHCR is a member of the UN Country Team in Tunisia and contributes

to the United Nations Development Assistance Framework (UNDAF) 2015-2019. In 2014, UNHCR notably led the inter-agency preparedness efforts in the eventuality of an influx of refugees and asylum-seekers from Libya, upon the request of the Tunisian Government. This plan is regularly updated.

More specifically on rescue at sea, UNHCR supports the Tunisian authorities, with which the primary responsibility to manage people disembarked lies, namely the National Maritime Guard or the Navy which undertake rescue at sea operations. The police authorities are also involved once people are disembarked and their identities registered by the police. Humanitarian actors, including the Tunisian Red Crescent and Civil protection, enter into play at the disembarkation point as well in order to provide first aid, medical and other support. Coordination for transport of the disembarked to the reception centres is also foreseen by the standard operational procedures. In accordance with their respective roles and responsibilities, the actors described above then deal with the ensuing activities. Regular updates, consultations and referrals occur during the various phases of disembarkation and post-disembarkation activities. No formal coordination structures are in place.

UNHCR has a field office in Zarzis, and so does IOM and the Tunisian Red Crescent. Coordination takes place in accordance with already established mechanisms, notably the partners meeting hosted by UNHCR in Zarzis. As far as the Tunisian authorities are concerned, their interventions are coordinated through the governor of Medenine who represents the central government in the region. He is also the first point of contact for UNHCR and other organisations.

Planned activities

Fair protection processes and documentation

Status determination	Pre-screening and initial registration of people rescued at sea and land, also by partners, e.g. Tunisian Red Crescent.
	Conduct refugee status determination (interviews and processes) by UNHCR.

Favourable protection environment

Access to the territory and risk of refoulement	Build capacity and train an estimated 520 representatives from border authorities, civil society, lawyers, and Tunisian authorities at central and local level on Rescue at Sea and Mixed Migration, in collaboration with local and international partners.
	Provide equipment to national entities to build the technical and operational capacity of public services both to assist current people of concern and local community, and to adequately assist additional people of concern in emergency response.

Basic needs and essential services

Shelter and infrastructure	Provide vulnerable people in need of international protection with emergency shelter: UNHCR will rent and maintain dormitory (with an estimated capacity of 300 people).
Basic and domestic items	Purchase core relief items for emergency preparedness to distribute to all people of concern rescued at sea or land upon arrival. Provide temporary cash assistance settling to urban areas.

Financial requirements

UNHCR's 2017 ExCom-revised budget for Tunisia in response to the Central Mediterranean Route Situation amounts to \$977,782, presented in the table below.

	ExCom Budget and subsequent adjustments related to the Central Mediterranean Route Situation	Additional requirements (As of June 2017)	Total
Favourable protection environment	326,418	-	326,418
Access to territory and risk of refoulement	326,418	-	326,418
Fair protection processes and documentation	133,412	-	133,412
Status determination	133,412	-	133,412
Basic needs and services	517,952	-	517,952
Shelter and infrastructure	401,076	-	401,076
Basic and domestic items	116,876	-	116,876
SUBTOTAL	977,782	-	977,782
Support costs (7 per cent)	-	-	-
TOTAL	977,782	-	977,782

EUROPE

Regional strategy and coordination

Regional strategy

The central Mediterranean route is currently the most active in terms of mixed movements and accounts for the largest number of people crossing by sea to Europe. Over 90 per cent of arrivals to Italy crossed the Mediterranean Sea from Libya. The vital importance of rescue at sea operations undertaken by all actors involved, including the Italian Coastguard, other Governments, NGOs and merchant ships, is undisputed, in light of the continued hazards confronting refugees and migrants crossing the Mediterranean Sea. Disembarkation to only one country in the central Mediterranean is neither sustainable nor fair, and improved coordination among all those involved in rescue operations is required.

The vast majority of women, and in some cases men, who arrive in Europe through the central Mediterranean are survivors of SGBV. UNHCR, together with the Italian government, are expanding services, including identification, outreach, and referrals for survivors. In addition, there continue to be high numbers of unaccompanied and separated children arriving in Italy. Significant challenges remain in terms of long-term capacity to manage large numbers of this group in line with European standards, as unaccompanied and separated children require dedicated and specialized resources, including family tracing, a robust guardianship system (with sufficient guardians to help increase the efficiency and speed of asylum and AVRR processing), and reception conditions that meet the minimum standards. 14 per cent of total arrivals to Italy from January to June were unaccompanied and separated children.

Human trafficking rings as well as groups trading in weapons, drugs and terrorism, actively operate on the central Mediterranean route and exchange intelligence and resources. UNHCR continues to advocate with the European Union for strengthened law enforcement in relation to tackling illegal activities and dismantling the business model of smugglers and traffickers.

European countries' leadership and support to countries of origin and transit is required in parallel with the sharing of information and development of effective transnational cooperation to fight smuggling and human trafficking jointly with various organizations such as Afripol, Europol, Interpol, African Intelligence Community (AFIC/FRONTEX group) and UNODC. These efforts need to take into consideration current gaps, constraints and inconsistent practices. Measures adopted should not adversely impact the right to seek asylum.

Building upon the Central Mediterranean Sea Initiative (CMSI)²⁵, the guiding tool for UNHCR's engagement on mixed movements, the main elements of the protection response include:

- Support, complement and build existing government capacity to ensure effective and safe access to asylum, protection and solutions, as well as manage migration in an orderly and dignified manner.
- Ensure that refugees have access to protection basic services and assistance in a participatory manner, with particular attention to specific needs and vulnerabilities.
- Strengthen national and local capacities and protection systems, and ensure safe access to longer-term solutions for refugees, in particular through reinforced alternative legal pathways to protection, such as relocation, family reunification and resettlement.
- Support people with specific needs, including in particular SGBV survivors, unaccompanied and separated children, people and children with disabilities and victims of trafficking, and ensure they will continue to be prioritized to ensure their safe and predictable access to adequate protection and solutions.
- Systematically inform refugees and migrants in an age, gender and diversity sensitive manner and through a participatory dialogue on their rights and obligations.
- Strengthen collective engagement and response to search and rescue operations targeting private operators and other relevant actors, including through legal and technical advice and advocacy.

With regard to maintaining and strengthening the search and rescue capacity, UNHCR seeks to reinforce its activities aiming at contributing to the training of Coast Guards forces or private operators (in coordination with the International Chamber of Shipping and the IMO) on fundamental rights, good practice in disembarkation, post-disembarkation screening and effective use of referral mechanism, where applicable; improving current disembarkation procedures with a view to better identify people in need of international protection and those with specific needs such as unaccompanied children and victims of trafficking and provide better standards of treatment to all those rescued; developing accountability mechanisms for ship owners disconnecting their automated identification equipment/transponders (AFIS) with a view to avoid participating in search and rescue operations; promoting through a Round table among the Mediterranean countries the concept of a shared and more predictable responsibility for search and rescue and disembarkation which could be de-linked to the responsibility for the differentiated solutions for those disembarked.

With regard to trafficking and smuggling, UNHCR will continue to advocate for an effective use and sharing of information between relevant law enforcement agencies outside the European Union on known traffickers; a proactive engagement with the existing United Nations Sanctions Committee

²⁵ Available at <http://www.refworld.org/docid/538d73704.html>.

on Libya in relation to people and companies facilitating the trafficking in/through Libya; a review with all concerned states and organizations of the existing European Union and UN Mandates of some missions such as EUNAVFOR, EUCAP Sahel/Niger, EUBAM Libya & MINUSMA Mali, G5 Sahel Security Platform) to include trafficking and protection of victims of trafficking.

It will also include the establishment or upgrade, where necessary, of national and regional anti-smuggling and anti-trafficking legislation and action plans in countries and regions of origin and transit and ensuring that these respect applicable standards maximizing use of opportunities through existing regional processes, increased research and inquiries into the operations, changing dynamics of smuggling markets along the central Mediterranean route, and an engagement of non-state actors in discussions on addressing trafficking and smuggling.

The situation in Italy has evolved significantly since the launch of the RMRP strategy. UNHCR is engaging with states to support the development of a regional approach to provide enhanced support to Italy also with regard to disembarkation, including countries sharing search and rescue responsibilities in the central Mediterranean, as well as expand the intra-European relocation programme. UNHCR is also scaling up efforts addressing the root causes for flight and movement.

With regard to solutions, the existence of safe pathways could reduce significantly to the number of asylum-seekers and refugees embark on dangerous irregular journeys. It would also reduce the secondary movements of Nigerian, Eritrean, Somali and Malian refugees in particular from their first countries of asylum such as Niger, Ethiopia, and Sudan. UNHCR estimates that some 263,000 refugees in countries in the East and Horn of Africa route, 19,300 refugees in countries in West African route and 18,000 refugees in North Africa are in need of resettlement.

The in-take of resettlement countries have so far been very limited: 26,342 people benefited from resettlement from these three regions combined in 2016. Beyond traditional resettlement countries, the current situation requires an exceptional response and innovative approaches that will contribute to the reduction of dangerous irregular movements to Libya. It is proposed to resettle more refugees from countries neighbouring Libya than from Libya itself to reduce any pull-factor effect. UNHCR will continue to urge European resettlement countries to increase regional diversity by increasing the number of places made available to sub-Saharan Africa, which hosts the largest estimated resettlement needs aside from Syrians in the Middle East and North Africa and Turkey.

Resettlement has proven to be one of the most important tools at States' disposal to meet the protection needs of refugees. However, there is an urgent need for a greater variety of legal pathways, which truly complement regular resettlement by creating additional opportunities for solutions. These may include opportunities for family-based mobility, labour mobility schemes,

education programmes, humanitarian visas and private and/or community sponsorship programmes.

The EU's Action Plan launched on 4 July, providing for measures to support Italy, reduce pressure along the central Mediterranean route and increase solidarity, states that “the European Commission will launch a new resettlement pledging exercise in conjunction with the UNHCR starting with those in need of international protection from Libya, Egypt, Niger, Ethiopia and Sudan”, is a welcomed initiative.

In addition, too few refugees can access family reunification to Europe, mainly due to practical obstacles (including documentation or financial requirements) and administrative hurdles. With the support of partners such as IOM, UNICEF, ICRC, UNHCR will actively facilitate family reunification of and with refugees. UNHCR will promote the inclusion of refugees and IDPs in the mobility programmes between Europe and Africa for students, researchers and entrepreneurs in line with the section 2 of the Action Plan of the Valetta Summit. UNHCR will in particular identify and assist refugee and IDP students to be included in the Erasmus and annual call and will call on European Union to facilitate the issuance of travel documents

Building on the Joint Labour Migration Programme adopted at the African Union Summit in January 2015 and other initiatives developed by ECOWAS, IGAD and the European Union, the Office will, with the support of partners such as ILO, explore pilot labour mobility schemes for skilled refugees in Europe, in ECOWAS/IGAD regions, as well as in other countries and regions where such schemes exist.

Partnerships and coordination

UNHCR's refugee and migrant response in Europe remains centred on meeting the protection needs of people of concern. Protection and protection principles are at the centre of the response and will be applied in all sectors. UNHCR and partners will continue to ensure a coherent and predictable protection response, recognizing the primary responsibility of governments to protect refugees and migrants. Civil society, national and faith-based organisations are recognized as indispensable partners for service provision, human rights response, and action to combat intolerance.

The financial requirements for Europe have been summarized in the 2017 inter-agency regional Refugee and Migrant Response Plan for Europe (RMRP), which was launched in January 2017²⁶.

²⁶ The 2017 regional Refugee and Migrant Response Plan for Europe (RMRP) is available at <http://reporting.unhcr.org/node/17167>.

CENTRAL MEDITERRANEAN ROUTE: WORKING ON THE ALTERNATIVES TO DANGEROUS JOURNEYS

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