

# LIBYA

August 2019

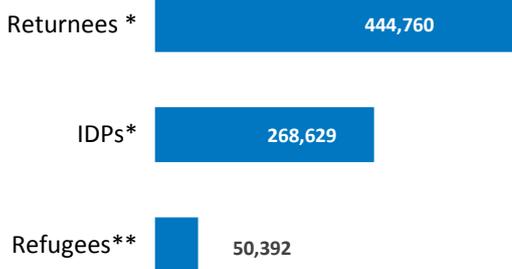
An estimated **823,000 people are in need of humanitarian assistance**. Displaced populations, refugees and migrants are amongst the most vulnerable. Nearly 120,000 have been displaced since clashes restarted in April 2019.

UNHCR's overall strategic objective in Libya is to enhance the **protection** environment and provide life-saving **assistance to displaced populations, refugees, asylum-seekers, and their host communities**.

In line with its regional engagement along the **Central Mediterranean route**, UNHCR's priorities in Libya include saving lives, assisting **persons in need of international protection** and ensuring their access to protection and solutions such as resettlement and family reunification.

## POPULATION OF CONCERN

763,781



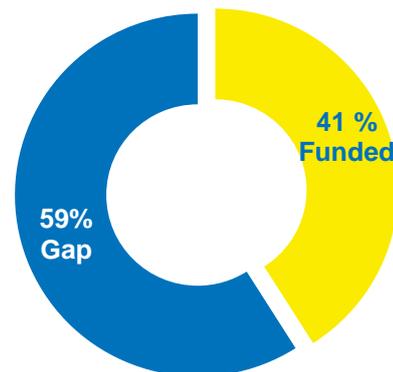
\* IOM-DTM May 2019

\*\* Refugees and asylum-seekers registered with UNHCR (as of 30 July 2019)

## FUNDING

USD 88.1M

requested for the Libya operation in 2019

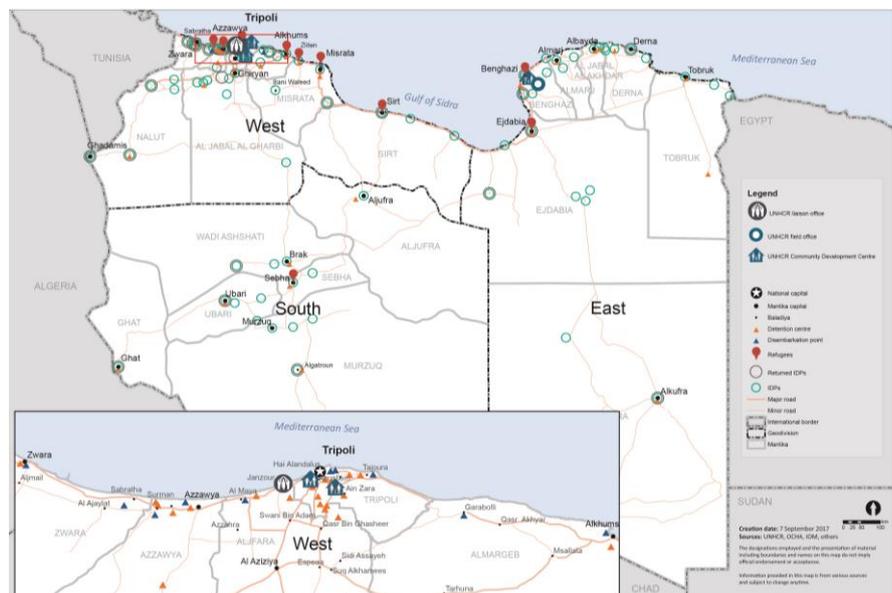


## UNHCR PRESENCE

Staff:

**114** national staff (**9** in Tunis, **102** in Tripoli, **three** in Benghazi);

**56** international staff



## Working with Partners

- **UNHCR is a member of the United Nations Country Team and Humanitarian Country Team in Libya.** Together with the International Organization for Migration (IOM) and the International Rescue Committee (IRC), UNHCR co-leads the Refugee and Migrant Platform. UNHCR also leads the Shelter/NFIs Sector, the Cash & Markets Working Group and the Protection Sector on IDPs, returnees and non-displaced population.
- **UNHCR supports Libyan authorities to enhance the rights environment and assistance for the displaced and conflict-affected Libyan population, and works with partners to protect and assist refugees and asylum-seekers.** UNHCR is currently expanding partnerships with both international and national NGOs, as well as civil society organizations. Partners include ACTED, Cooperazione e Sviluppo (CESVI), the International Medical Corps (IMC), Mercy Corps, International Rescue Committee, Danish Refugee Council, IMPACT Initiatives, Première Urgence Internationale, Handicap International, Norwegian Refugee Council and LibAid.

## Main Activities

### Assistance to Internally displaced persons (IDPs)

- **Support for IDPs is a priority. UNHCR is providing basic assistance to IDPs in Libya, such as core-relief items and cash assistance.** Cash assistance helps the most vulnerable displaced families to cover shelter and basic needs. Considering the challenges posed by the liquidity crisis in the country, UNHCR and its partners distributed non-food items to over 12,800 IDPs and returnees so far in 2019. In addition, another 8,855 IDPs and returnees were supported with shelter kits. UNHCR is setting-up a protection monitoring system to enhance access to rights for IDPs and ensure interventions reach the most vulnerable. Given the ongoing clashes in the south of Tripoli, UNHCR has distributed core-relief items (CRIs) to 11,000 persons who were recently displaced.
- **UNHCR is implementing quick impact projects (QIP), which are small and rapidly implemented projects, to support IDPs, returnees and their host communities with a view to promote social cohesion.** Together with the communities, UNHCR and partners identify projects, mainly targeting local infrastructure, equipment and basic services within the health, education, shelter and WASH sectors. As an example, in 2019, UNHCR supported a school and a clinic in Al Awiniya, Nafusa Mountains. In 2019, UNHCR also conducted rehabilitation works at the Abu Sitta Hospital in Tripoli. In 2019, UNHCR is implementing 30 QIPs.

### Support following rescue/interception at sea

- **UNHCR's interventions at disembarkation points in Libya focus on the provision of life-saving assistance and protection monitoring to identify persons in need of international protection, and vulnerable individuals, including unaccompanied and separated children, elderly, persons with specific needs, women at risk and victims of trafficking.** UNHCR has access to and conducts protection monitoring at disembarkation points in western Libya. In six of these disembarkation points, UNHCR upgraded reception conditions to meet the immediate basic needs of refugees and migrants being disembarked following a rescue/interception at sea. Support includes establishing health posts, constructing water and sanitation facilities, such as toilets and showers, and shaded areas to protect refugees and migrants from rain in the winter and high temperatures in the summer.
- **As part of efforts to enhance protection at sea in the context of mixed migration flows, UNHCR conducts regular capacity-building activities on international humanitarian law and international refugee law for authorities, including the Libyan Coast Guard.**

### Assistance and advocacy to end detention of refugees and asylum-seekers

- **UNHCR advocates for an end of detention in Libya and the release of refugees and asylum-seekers from detention, in particular for unaccompanied and separated children and other vulnerable individuals.** UNHCR also calls for care arrangements for children and family tracing. **So far in 2019, UNHCR and its partners have conducted more than 770 visits to detention centres. Over 1,661 refugees and asylum-seekers have been released following UNHCR's advocacy efforts, mainly for the purpose of evacuation to a safe third country.**
- **In December 2018, UNHCR opened the Gathering and Departure Facility (GDF) in Tripoli.** The GDF is the first of its kind in the country and is intended to bring vulnerable refugees to a safe environment while solutions including resettlement, family reunification, or evacuation to other emergency facilities are sought for them. The facility is managed by UNHCR, partner LibAid and the Libyan Ministry of Interior, and is one of a range of measures needed to offer viable alternatives to detention and to the dangerous journeys undertaken by refugees and migrants. Since the opening of the facility over 2,200 refugees entered the (GDF).

- **At detention centres, where access remains restricted, UNHCR provides basic humanitarian assistance** and advocates for enhanced access to screening, identification and registration of refugees and vulnerable individuals both at disembarkation points and in detention centres. UNHCR especially advocates for measures preventing risks of sexual and gender-based violence to be adopted. **UNHCR distributes CRIs to persons held in detention centres**, where particularly poor hygiene conditions contribute to the risk of spreading of diseases. In the past, UNHCR also assisted with the provision of WASH facilities for eight detention centres, including washing machines, and water tanks and generators.

### Urban Refugee Programme

- **One of UNHCR's key objectives in Libya is to enhance the protection environment for refugees and asylum-seekers.** UNHCR assists persons in need of international protection through its telephone hotlines, via its Community Day Centres (CDC) in Tripoli and through outreach visits. UNHCR's partners CESVI and IMC provide specialized assistance to persons with specific needs, including unaccompanied and separated children and victims of trafficking.
- Refugees and asylum-seekers have limited access to Libyan health facilities. **UNHCR and partners provide primary healthcare and psychosocial support** to refugees and asylum-seekers in Tripoli and in detention facilities. So far in 2019, UNHCR and partners have conducted nearly 6,000 medical consultations for vulnerable refugees and asylum-seekers.

### Durable Solutions

- **UNHCR has significantly scaled-up its capacity for refugee status determination**, resettlement and evacuations to third countries. Since September 2017, a total of 4,418 refugees and asylum-seekers departed from Libya, including 2,912 to the Emergency Transit Mechanism in Niger, 710 to Italy, 425 to the Emergency Transit Centre in Romania and 371 to other countries.
- **UNHCR continues to seek durable solutions**, such as resettlement, family reunification and voluntary repatriation, for refugees and asylum-seekers, giving particular attention to the most vulnerable. Since September 2017, UNHCR submitted 1,507 cases for resettlement to third countries directly from Libya.
- **In September 2017, UNHCR called for 40,000 resettlement places to be made available for refugees located in 15 countries along the Central Mediterranean route.** As of 31 July 2019, 14 States have committed a total of 6,961 resettlement places for the Libya-Niger situation. Out of these pledges, 1,925 will be used for resettlement processing directly out of Libya while 5,036 places will be allocated to evacuees from Libya and refugees registered in Niger.

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