

LIBYA

January 2019

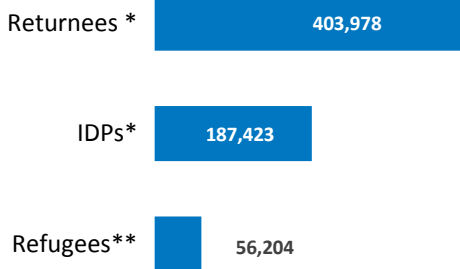
An estimated **823,000 people are in need of humanitarian assistance**. Displaced populations, refugees and migrants are amongst the most vulnerable.

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

647,605



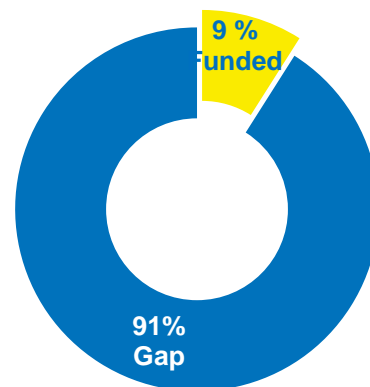
* IOM-DTM October 2018

** Refugees and asylum-seekers registered with UNHCR (as of 4 January 2019)

FUNDING

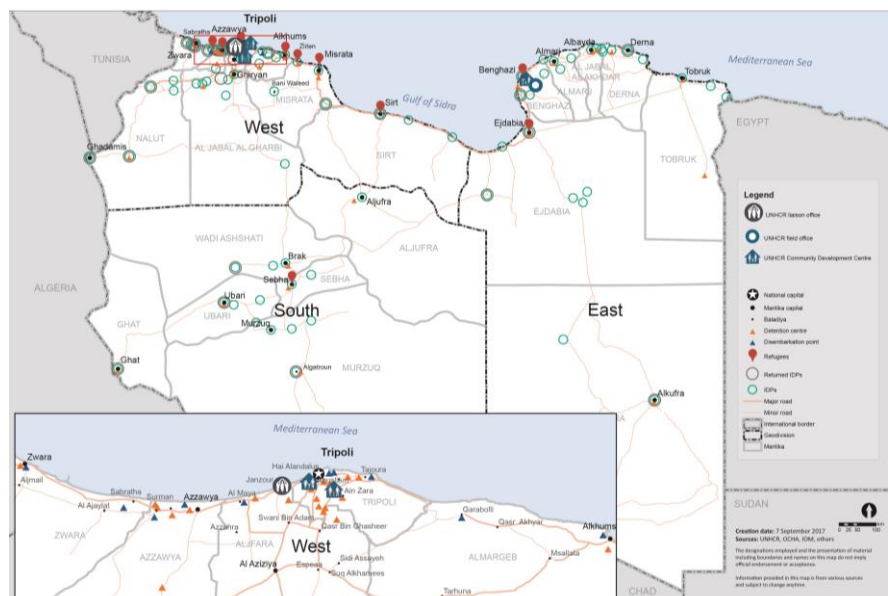
USD 88.1M

requested for the Libya operation in 2019



UNHCR PRESENCE

Staff:
108 national staff (10 in Tunis, **95** in Tripoli, **three** in Benghazi);
52 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), UNHCR co-leads the Refugee and Migrant Platform. UNHCR also leads the Protection Sector, the Shelter/NFIs Sector and the Cash & Markets Working Groups 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 non-food 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 68,200 IDPs and returnees in Libya in 2018. UNHCR is setting-up a protection monitoring system to enhance access to rights for IDPs and ensure interventions reach the most vulnerable.
- **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 2018, UNHCR provided water tanks to seven hospitals and clinics in Sabratha and Azzawya to facilitate the water supply for these medical facilities, allowing for water desalination and ensuring the availability of drinking water. In 2018, UNHCR has implemented over 110 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 for alternative to detention 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. **In 2018, UNHCR and its partners have conducted more than 1,300 visits to detention centres. Over 2,700 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 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.

- **At detention centres, 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 non-food items to persons held in detention centres**, where particularly poor hygiene conditions contribute to the risk of spreading of diseases. In 2018, UNHCR has distributed non-food items, including hygiene kits, to 22,907 persons held in detention centres. 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 identifies, registers and assists persons in need of international protection through its telephone hotlines, via its three Community Day Centres (CDCs) 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. In 2018, UNHCR and partners have conducted more than 33,000 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, UNHCR processed 3,857 refugees and asylum-seekers for solutions in third countries. A total of 2,793 individuals were evacuated from Libya, including 2,202 to the Emergency Transit Mechanism in Niger, 415 to Italy and 176 to the Emergency Transit Centre in Romania.
- **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 1,064 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 December 2018, 12 States have committed a total of 5,456 resettlement places for the Libya-Niger situation. Out of these pledges, 1,940 will be used for resettlement processing directly out of Libya while 3,516 places will be allocated to evacuees from Libya and refugees registered in Niger.

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