

Annual Results Report

2023

Libya

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- 4.1 - Lessons Learned and Future Outlook

Section 1: Context and Overview

1.1 Changes to the Operational Context

In 2023, UNHCR in Libya continued amidst a complex operational environment exacerbated by the onset of Storm Daniel floods, which hit eastern Libya in September to assist forcibly displaced persons. The flood led to increased displacement requiring an immediate and robust response, addressing both emergent needs of newly displaced individuals and ongoing requirements of existing displaced populations. The country remained a crucial transit and destination point for mixed movement flows largely due to its strategic geographical positioning and porous borders, as well as conflicts and political developments in neighbouring countries.

Libya's political situation remained uncertain, following the trends from previous years. Despite the 2020 ceasefire and efforts towards political stabilization, the roadmap for holding national elections was not met, maintaining a sense of unpredictability in the country.

In terms of population movements, the number of internally displaced persons (IDPs) decreased significantly, a trend expected to continue, with many achieving durable solutions through voluntary return or local integration. This shift aligns with the goals of the UN Sustainable Development Cooperation Framework (UNSDCF), specifically the collective outcome 1 on Durable Solutions for IDPs.

Regarding refugees and asylum-seekers, numbers increased to over 56,000 in 2023 following previous disruption of registration due to COVID-19. UNHCR's efforts in facilitating family reunification, providing emergency transit evacuations, and enabling resettlements to third countries were pivotal in addressing the needs of this population.

Security and humanitarian access remained challenging due to ongoing political instability and a lack of formal host country agreement between UNHCR and the Libyan Government, leading to adaptive operational strategies to ensure continued support to vulnerable populations.

1.2. Progress Against the Desired Impact

1. Impact Area: Attaining Favorable Protection Environments

By the end of 2025 more people UNHCR serves are able to move freely throughout Libya without fear of arrest, exploitation, with access to services, assistance and durable solutions for those most in need, including protection from refoulement for refugees and asylum-seekers.

Indicators	Population Type	Strategy Baseline	Actual (2023)
1.1 Proportion of people seeking international protection who are able to access asylum procedures	Refugees and Asylum-seekers	32.00%	32.00%
1.2 Proportion of people who are able to move freely within the country of habitual residence	IDPs	100.00%	100.00%
1.2 Proportion of people who are able to move freely within the country of habitual residence	Refugees and Asylum-seekers	13.00%	10.72%

Registration and issuance of documents to refugees and asylum-seekers remained a priority, being the first step to access UNHCR and partners' assistance and services, even though UNHCR documents do not prevent from arrest, detention, or refoulement.

Significant improvements were made in the quality of data collection also due to increased information gathered on the routes taken to reach Libya, the modalities of transport, protection incidents faced by those arriving in Libya and documents available, such as birth certificates. With the availability of this additional information, UNHCR and partners were able to implement targeted interventions and conduct evidence-based programming.

UNHCR continued the use of strategic refugee status determination (RSD) for asylum-seekers who were identified in need of durable solutions due to their heightened protection risks. The RSD process is equipped with different processing modalities, based on individual profiles and channeled through the relevant application modality by a multi-functional panel. This leads to a systematic identification approach, thus ensuring a fair and transparent processing.

In 2023, UNHCR continued to provide targeted assistance to refugees and asylum-seekers who were identified with specific needs, including survivors of gender-based violence (GBV) and unaccompanied and separated children (UASC). Depending on the needs, UNHCR and its partners provided individualized interventions such as case management, healthcare, mental health and psychosocial support, cash assistance, and referrals to durable solutions. By the end of 2023, over 1,400 registered individuals were GBV survivors with an increasing tendency in the course of 2023. Further, over 2,320 were UASC and almost 6,300 children at risk.

2. Impact Area: Realizing Rights in Safe Environments

Between 2023-2025, refugees, asylum-seekers, IDPs, and IDP returnees have access to basic services.

Indicators	Population Type	Strategy Baseline	Actual (2023)
2.2 Proportion of people residing in physically safe and secure settlements with access to basic facilities	IDPs	78.00%	78.00%
2.2 Proportion of people residing in physically safe and secure settlements with access to basic facilities	Refugees and Asylum-seekers	22.36%	26.00%
2.3 Proportion of people with access to health services	Refugees and Asylum-seekers	85.31%	87.91%

Libya is not party to the 1951 Convention Relating to the Status of Refugees or its Protocols but has ratified the 1969 Convention Governing the Specific Aspects of Refugee Problems in Africa and is also party to the African Charter on Human and Peoples' Rights. However, there is no national asylum legislation nor any established asylum procedures in the country. As a result, all non-Libyans, regardless of their status or protection needs – including refugees and asylum-seekers – fall under national immigration laws. The Libyan legal framework criminalizes illegal entry and exit and might result in arbitrary detention of individuals for indefinite periods without access to due process. In 2023, UNHCR's advocacy efforts for release from detention facilitated the transfer of over 249 individuals from detention centers run by the Directorate for Combatting Illegal Migration to the urban setting.

In 2023, UNHCR and partners assisted more than 9,800 refugees, asylum-seekers, and internally displaced people (IDPs) with multi-purpose cash assistance (MPCA), enabling them to meet basic needs and mitigate socio-economic hardship. Over 94,000 individuals received core relief items and hygiene kits. UNHCR assisted over 21,200 refugees and asylum-seekers with medical consultations and over 1,400 medical referrals were made. In 2023, UNHCR operated the Libyan Red Crescent shelter in Misrata, which housed 40 refugees facing very heightened risks.

3. Impact Area: Empowering Communities and Achieving Gender Equality

Persons UNHCR serves have a strengthened environment for peaceful coexistence and social cohesion, and better access to livelihood opportunities while Refugees and Asylum-seekers children have improved access to the national education system.

Indicators	Population Type	Strategy Baseline	Actual (2023)
3.1 Proportion of people who have the right to decent work	IDPs	100.00%	100.00%
3.1 Proportion of people who have the right to decent work	Refugees and Asylum-seekers	0.00%	0.00%
3.2a Proportion of children and young people enrolled in primary education	Refugees and Asylum-seekers	2.20%	15.58%
3.2b Proportion of children and young people enrolled in secondary education	Refugees and Asylum-seekers	2.20%	6.15%
3.3 Proportion of people feeling safe walking alone in their neighbourhood after dark	IDPs	100.00%	9.56%
3.3 Proportion of people feeling safe walking alone in their neighbourhood after dark	Refugees and Asylum-seekers	71.49%	53.73%

Access to the national education system for refugee or asylum-seeker children remained challenging, mostly due to lack of documentation and residence permit and increasingly to financial constraints in the enrolment process. In 2023, UNHCR maintained the established referral mechanism with UNICEF as part of the Strategic Collaborative Framework to ensure school-aged refugee and asylum-seeker children have access to education case management, and enrolment in non-formal and formal education. Over 390 children were referred to UNICEF and around 140 children were enrolled in formal education. UNHCR distributed 2,500 school kits to mitigate the risk of financial barriers to school enrolment aiming to increase the number of refugee and asylum-seeker children attending formal education. As part of the humanitarian-development nexus, UNHCR is working in close collaboration with local authorities and the Ministry of Education to re-establish damaged education facilities. In 2023, UNHCR rehabilitated eight schools benefitting over 7,000 children, including refugees, IDPs and host communities.

Community engagement remained a priority with over 97,000 calls received via the Common Feedback Mechanism and protection hotlines. UNHCR held 27 community meetings to include asylum-seekers and refugees in the decision-making process to better understand their needs. The Facebook Information Portal was actively used with over 11,000 followers and a child-friendly page to the UNHCR Help Page, which is regularly updated and operates in six languages, was set up.

4. Impact Area: Securing Solutions

By the end of 2025, more refugees and asylum-seekers benefit from a wider range of durable solutions, including timely and direct access to resettlement, humanitarian evacuation, and complementary pathways.

Indicators	Population Type	Strategy Baseline	Actual (2023)
4.1 Number of refugees who voluntarily return in safety and dignity to their country of origin	Refugees and Asylum-seekers	269	1,224
4.2a Number of people who departed on resettlement	Refugees and Asylum-seekers	786	409
4.2b Number of people who departed through complementary pathways	Refugees and Asylum-seekers	73	66
4.3b Number of refugees for whom residency status is granted or confirmed	Refugees and Asylum-seekers	0	0

With one of the major resettlement countries not giving any pledges to the operation in 2023, the operation was faced with only 630 pledges while 750 submissions were made. With a 97 percent acceptance rate of resettlement submissions, UNHCR worked closely with IOM and the Libyan authorities to arrange departures. Despite this situation and the fact that Emergency Transit Mechanism (ETM) evacuations to Niger were halted for half of 2023 due to the political situation in Niger, a total of 1,260 refugees and asylum-seekers departed Libya in 2023, among them 409 through resettlement, 785 through humanitarian evacuations and 66 through other complementary pathways. The strategic use of humanitarian evacuations through the ETMs in Niger and Rwanda continued and in December an extension of the memorandum of understanding (MoU) with Italy for further departures through the humanitarian admission programme was concluded. These departures are planned to take place in 2024.

In collaboration with IOM, UNHCR continued providing joint counselling to individuals who showed interest in returning to their countries in safety and dignity. A total of 1,543 individuals were counselled during joint and individual sessions. UNHCR also provided individual return counselling to registered refugees and asylum-seekers who expressed an interest in returning to their countries of origin. Accordingly, 51 people (43 from Sudan prior to the conflict erupting in April, four from Eritrea and four from South Sudan) were counselled and 13 were referred to IOM in 2023.

1.3 Challenges to Achieving Impacts

In 2023, Libya remained both a destination and transit country for large mixed movement flows with sea arrivals in Italy having increased by 50 percent reaching over 157,000 people, among them over 52,000 embarking in Libya. Further, the outbreak of conflict in Sudan in April and the expulsions of over 6,100 migrants and people with international protection needs from Tunisia to Libya since June resulted in an overall increase of people seeking safety and protection in Libya.

In Libya, refugees and asylum-seekers continued to be regarded as illegal migrants faced with arbitrary arrest, detention and expulsions. With the outbreak of conflict in Sudan, newly Sudanese arrivals temporarily stayed in front of the UNHCR office in Tripoli, leading to security interventions by the authorities, including arrest of women and children. The Community Day Centre (CDC) faced access and security challenges, including dismay from the community, leading to reduction of health activities and ultimately the relocation of the centre at the end of the year.

In September 2023, the Storm Daniel hit the country, heavily affecting coastal areas in eastern Libya and subsequent devastating floods in Derna. UNHCR and partners quickly mobilized essential core relief items

to assist over 40,000 newly displaced people.

Delays on the issuance of exit permits and procedures linked to resettlement, humanitarian evacuations and complementary pathways remained a challenge. However, UNHCR was still able to assist over 1,200 refugees and asylum-seekers to depart from Libya. The operation focused on enhanced complementary pathways, namely family reunification, even though strict requirements of the concerned embassies and limited consular services in Libya remained an obstacle.

The continuous liquidity issues relating to the withdrawal of cash significantly impacted activities requiring local currency for their implementation, such as cash assistance programmes.

1.4 Collaboration and Partnerships

In 2023, UNHCR further strengthened its partnerships and collaborations with Libyan authorities, including Ministries of Foreign Affairs, Interior, Health, Justice, Local Governance, State for Displaced Affairs, and Human Rights. This collaboration was pivotal in enhancing the capacity to support and protect refugees, asylum-seekers, and IDPs.

Partnerships with international non-governmental organizations (ACTED, CESVI, IRC, INTERSOS, NRC, Futbol Mas) and national organizations (LibAid) remained strong. Ties were reinforced with local NGO Moomken, in addition to UN sister agencies such as WFP, IOM and UNICEF. This comprehensive approach allowed UNHCR to expand the reach and efficiency of assistance to refugees and asylum-seekers, in line with the Global Compact on Refugees.

The change from the previous Humanitarian Response Plan to the 2023 -2025 UN Sustainable Development Cooperation Framework (UNSDCF), led by the UN Country Team and the Libyan Government, marked a milestone. This alignment with the Sustainable Development Goals facilitated the transition to the Humanitarian-Development-Peace (H-D-P) Nexus Advisory Group. UNHCR was the co-lead, together with UNDP, of the collective outcome 1 on Durable Solutions for IDPs and co-chaired the collective outcome 2 on Migration Management with IOM.

Even though the sector/cluster arrangement came to an end with the switch to the UNSDCF, UNHCR's role as the lead agency in the Protection, Shelter/Non-food Items, and Cash & Market thematic working groups was most evident in the context of the flood response from September 2023 onwards. UNHCR also supported health authorities with Rubb halls, prefab containers, generators, IT equipment and medicine.

With the outbreak of the Sudan conflict in April 2023, UNHCR coordinated the joint-UN contingency and response plan in preparation for a large Sudanese refugee influx. The contingency plan compiled possible activities by participating UN agencies in the case of an influx of over 20,000 Sudanese refugees within six months.

Section 2: Results

2.1. Outcomes and Achievements

1. Outcome Area: Access to Territory, Reg. and Documentation

Registration and documentation procedures and systems function effectively and in a timely manner for refugees and asylum-seekers, and IDPs' awareness on documentation is raised.

Indicators	Population Type	Strategy Baseline	Target (2023)	Actual (2023)
1.1 Proportion of refugees and asylum seekers registered on an individual basis	Refugees and Asylum-seekers	100.00%	100.00%	100.00%
1.2 Proportion of children under 5 years of age whose births have been registered with a civil authority	IDPs	100.00%	100.00%	100.00%

Progress Against the Desired Outcome

At the end of 2023, UNHCR recorded 56,687 individually registered refugees and asylum-seekers and issued a total of 22,845 documents throughout the year. In 2023, UNHCR newly registered 27,056 individuals from the nine nationalities that UNHCR registers in Libya, namely Syria, Iraq, Palestine, Sudan, Ethiopia, Eritrea, Somalia, Yemen and South Sudan. UNHCR documentation remained renewable provided that the individual remained in the country and in contact with UNHCR. If the contact was not maintained during the period foreseen within the standard operating procedures, the files were inactivated until the individual approached UNHCR again and the situation was reassessed. In 2023, 21,489 individual files were inactivated. In addition, over 23,759 registered refugees and asylum-seekers had follow-up registration interviews to renew their UNHCR certificates, add individuals to their case files or update their contact information. A total of 38 registration missions were carried out in 2023 for individuals in medical centres who were unable to approach the registration centre and required emergency registration.

The identification of people with international protection needs within the mixed movement remained challenging, particularly due to restrictions on the number of nationalities UNHCR registers, the geographical limitations in carrying out registration and documentation activities, and the lack of a legal framework regularizing the asylum process. Thus, refugees and asylum-seekers, despite their UNHCR documentation faced arbitrary arrest, detention or even deportation.

To improve access to territory, identification and referral of individuals who may need international protection, UNHCR and partner IRC carried out monitoring activities through presence at disembarkation points with a total of 140 operations out of 233 overall disembarkation operations (60 percent) in 2023. Further, UNHCR and partners conducted 593 visits to detention centres run by the Directorate for Combatting Illegal Migration, and together with IRC at locations such as Al-Assah at the Tunisian border. UNHCR staff access to all these locations is dependent on permission from relevant authorities and varied continuously, at times it was restricted. A total of seven missions to Al-Assah were undertaken by UNHCR and partners. Throughout 2023, monitoring at southern borders was not possible due to security restrictions and lack of permissions granted by authorities. The only exception was a mission to Al Kufra that took place in November 2023 to assess the situation of Sudanese refugees and follow up on previously implemented activities.

Since the outbreak of the Sudan conflict in mid-April 2023, UNHCR observed an increasing trend of Sudanese refugees arriving in Libya. In 2023, over 8,700 Sudanese asylum-seekers were registered, claiming to have arrived after 15 April 2023, with almost 2,000 Sudanese nationals awaiting registration by the end of the year.

2. Outcome Area: Status Determination

Refugees and asylum-seekers: Refugees and asylum-seekers with heightened protection risks identified for solutions consideration are assessed in accordance with procedural standards and cleared for resettlement or evacuation in a timely manner.

Indicators	Population Type	Strategy Baseline	Target (2023)	Actual (2023)
2.1 Average processing time (in days) from registration to first instance asylum decision	Refugees and Asylum-seekers	993.00	768.00	768.00
2.3 Proportion of people undergoing asylum procedures who have access to an effective appeal mechanism after first instance rejection of their claim	Refugees and Asylum-seekers	0.00%	0.00%	14.06%

Progress Against the Desired Outcome

UNHCR continued to conduct refugee status determination (RSD) in Libya throughout 2023, in the absence of state procedures for granting international protection to those in need. With RSD not being linked to regularization of the presence in the country or general provisions of life-saving assistance, RSD continued being used strategically for asylum-seekers for whom a durable solution was urgently needed such as resettlement or family reunification. In the context of humanitarian evacuations or admission programmes, the RSD is not a prerequisite as done in the country of transit or destination.

For those asylum-seekers an RSD procedure was necessary, a merged RSD/Resettlement process was used in case profiles and nationality criteria allowed. In the merged process, interviews at both steps, RSD and resettlement are combined in one interview process. Asylum-seekers not eligible for the merged procedure underwent regular RSD processing. To identify the applicable modality of RSD processing was done through a multifunctional panel following a careful examination of each individual's profile, and vulnerabilities in light of each processing modality's specificities to ensure safeguarding a systematic selection process. In addition, each modality also had several procedural safeguards in place ensuring fair and transparent access to the asylum processing. In 2023, a total of 73 cases (167 individuals) underwent regular RSD processing and 41 cases (134 individuals) were subsequently recognized and referred for resettlement or other durable solutions outside of Libya.

Meanwhile, a specifically designed RSD-driven process, without being itself a full RSD procedure, is part of the eligibility processing of asylum-seekers for humanitarian evacuations through the Emergency Transit Mechanisms (ETMs). The ETM eligibility was applied for asylum-seekers at heightened risks, including survivors of gender-based violence, trafficking and/or torture, unaccompanied children, single women, and female-headed households, older persons, and people with disabilities. In 2023, a total of 1,096 eligibility interviews were conducted for evacuations and 785 people were evacuated to the ETMs which included four flights to the ETM in Rwanda and one flight to the ETM in Niger.

3. Outcome Area: Protection Policy and Law

Refugees and asylum-seekers: National legal framework protects refugees and asylum-seekers from refoulement and allows access to basic rights.

Progress Against the Desired Outcome

Libya is not a party to the 1951 Convention Relating to the Status of Refugees or its 1967 Protocol. It has ratified the 1969 Convention Governing the Specific Aspects of Refugee Problems in Africa and is also party to the African Charter on Human and People's Rights. While the right to asylum is provided in Article 10 of Libya's 2011 interim Constitutional Declaration, there is no national asylum legislation or any established asylum procedures. As a result, all non-Libyans, regardless of their status or international protection needs, including refugees and asylum-seekers, fall under national immigration laws. Libyan laws

criminalize all irregular entry, stay, or exit without the appropriate documentation or through official border posts. There is no distinguishing between asylum-seekers or refugees, migrants or survivors of human trafficking. Due to this lack of legal status, refugees and asylum-seekers are in many cases subject to arbitrary arrest, detention, and in some cases even deportation. Without a legal status, access to basic public services such as primary health care and education remained a challenge in 2023, as well as legal access to work.

UNHCR registers people in need of international protection from nine nationalities (Syria, Iraq, Palestine, Sudan, Somalia, Eritrea, Ethiopia, Yemen and South Sudan). A “profile-based approach” is applied to individuals coming from major refugee-producing countries as well as people with specific profiles who are likely to have international protection needs.

Even though Libya is a signatory to the 1954 Convention Relating to the Status of Stateless Persons and the 1961 Convention on the Reduction of Statelessness, gaps persist in the national legal framework, including that Libyan women do not have the equal right of men to pass their nationality to their children.

4. Outcome Area: Gender-based Violence

IDPs: Protection risks of IDPs are identified, assessed, and IDPs are referred to relevant service providers in an adequate and timely manner through protection monitoring.

Refugees and asylum-seekers: By the end of 2025, risks of gender-based violence (GBV) are reduced for refugees and asylum-seekers in Libya, through access to quality response services and prevention programming effectively addressing the root causes of GBV.

Indicators	Population Type	Strategy Baseline	Target (2023)	Actual (2023)
4.1 Proportion of people who know where to access available GBV services	Refugees and Asylum-seekers	3.01%	5.00%	2.65%
4.3 Proportion of survivors who are satisfied with GBV case management services	Refugees and Asylum-seekers	77.78%	80.00%	85.71%

Progress Against the Desired Outcome

Refugees and asylum-seekers faced different types of gender-based violence (GBV) in Libya with noticeable differences based on nationality, age, population group, socio-economic background, education level and other factors. While GBV remained severely underreported, increasing numbers of survivors sought life-saving response services with a total of 405 GBV survivors receiving comprehensive case management assistance throughout the year.

The increase of survivors seeking support is related to continued severe GBV risks but also improved awareness of services available. Continued harmful practices and a lack of a legal framework providing protection particularly affecting and undermining the rights of women and girls persisted in Libya with refugees and asylum-seekers experiencing barriers and challenges due to their illegal status in the country.

In 2023, an increase of around 77 percent was observed in survivors reporting incidents of gender-based violence (GBV), with survivors using different channels to report and seek assistance from UNHCR and partners including at the protection desk, during field visits, the hotlines or the Common Feedback Mechanism with a total of 816 individuals reported to be survivors of GBV.

Female survivors, particularly Eritrean single women, remained the highest rate of survivors reporting GBV at 93 percent while male survivors accounted for seven percent. Approximately, 7 percent of survivors reporting GBV in 2023 were children. With the onset of the Sudan conflict, Sudanese reporting to be GBV survivors increased by 111 percent compared to 2022. Rape and sexual assault were the most common forms of reported GBV incidents, with 91 percent being rape, 6 percent being sexual assault and 3 percent domestic violence. Incidents occurring in the country of asylum remained high particularly in detention and trafficking camps.

UNHCR and partners continued to prioritise GBV prevention and response. UNHCR worked to ensure survivors had meaningful access to adequate, timely and specialised case management services with a multisectoral approach taken to support long-term recovery. In addition to 405 survivors who received comprehensive case management, 123 survivors were supported with community-based care arrangement or community support; 132 survivors received specialized mental health and psychological support services (MHPSS); and 349 survivors received cash assistance as part of their holistic case management. GBV primary prevention efforts continued including awareness raising and targeted interventions for communities reaching 167 people. Furthermore, efforts to strengthen the knowledge and capacity of UNHCR and partner's workforce were enhanced focusing on forms of GBV, core concepts, key approaches and principles, responding to GBV disclosures and safe referrals. UNHCR was an active member of the Violence Against Women Working Group which focused, among other activities, on GBV related issues in the aftermath of the Storm Daniel flood response in eastern Libya.

With the decreasing number of IDPs in 2023, there were an estimated 50,000 IDPs with remaining displacement-related humanitarian needs as of August 2023. UNHCR decreased the overall IDP response in 2023, including the gender-based violence component. However, with Storm Daniel hitting eastern Libya in early September 2023, UNHCR as the lead of the Protection thematic area provided immediate assistance. With many displaced women and families, including the loss of the male breadwinner, there was a risk that gender-based violence against the displaced would increase, particularly in communal shelters. Thus, UNHCR and partners promptly identified household-based solutions, either with affected people relocating to family dwellings; through the provision of temporary or longer term rented accommodation; or through cash assistance allowing to rent private accommodations.

As of the end of December, specific targeted GBV assistance by UNHCR remained limited; nevertheless, 2,515 protection assessments, representing 13,246 individuals, were conducted by UNHCR in flood-affected areas and the hotline capacity was increased to allow for more information and if required referrals to specialized service providers.

5. Outcome Area: Child Protection

IDPs: Children benefit from child protection activities

Refugees and asylum-seekers: Child protection services are strengthened to ensure children at risk are adequately supported by families, communities, and humanitarian actors.

Indicators	Population Type	Strategy Baseline	Target (2023)	Actual (2023)
5.1 Proportion of children at heightened risk who are supported by a Best Interests Procedure	Refugees and Asylum-seekers	50.00%	55.00%	56.66%
5.2 Proportion of children who participate in community-based child protection programmes	IDPs	0.62%	5.00%	0.52%
5.2 Proportion of children who participate in community-based child protection programmes	Refugees and Asylum-seekers	8.32%	20.00%	39.50%
5.3 Proportion of unaccompanied and separated children who are in an alternative care arrangement	Refugees and Asylum-seekers	7.57%	5.00%	13.31%

Progress Against the Desired Outcome

As part of the multi-sectoral needs assessment (MSNA), the Office conducted a child protection case study, which indicated that the most prominent child protection risks in 2023 included separation from parents and caregivers, child labour, sexual violence and exploitation, child trafficking/smuggling, detention, mental health issues and psychosocial distress. Over 33 percent of registered refugees and asylum-seekers are

children, whereas an increased percentage is also observed among Sudanese new arrivals since the outbreak of the conflict.

Family separation in the country of origin or during flight remained a key child protection concern with the situation for unaccompanied or separated children (UASC) remaining dire. The movement of people between Egypt, Libya and Tunisia further exacerbated family separation. As of December 2023, over 2,300 UASC were registered with UNHCR, among which 1,226 UASCs were registered in 2023 alone with the majority of them adolescent boys aged 15 and above being over 70 percent of all UASC. Girls continue to account for only 6 percent, some of them also falling under the category of child parents or child spouses. Sudanese children made up 46 percent of the total UASC followed by Eritrean children. Given their vulnerabilities, UASC remained at heightened risk of detention and trafficking, child labour, serious medical condition, psychosocial distress and lack of safety and security compounded by lack of suitable living arrangements.

In 2023, 612 children at risk received ongoing comprehensive case management, including access to specialised mental health and psychosocial services for 196 children. UNHCR implemented the best interest procedure (BIP) directly and through partner CESVI, as well as through collaboration with UNICEF. A total of 867 children had BIPs initiated in 2023 contributing to 56 percent of children at heightened risk. The community-based alternative care programme implemented by UNHCR and CESVI was strengthened with additional caregivers identified and supporting 186 unaccompanied or separated children. To support caregivers, targeted trainings were provided including positive parenting, psychological first aid, supporting children with traumatic experiences and child safeguarding, benefitting 171 parents and caregivers. This support extended to regular home visits to identify and address additional needs.

Efforts to enhance the resilience of children through group activities saw the establishment and operationalisation of two child-friendly spaces (CFS), benefiting over 5,190 children in 2023. Meanwhile, UNHCR continued to be an active participant in the Child Protection Working Group through strengthened advocacy efforts, support in the development of tools and SOPs as well as contributing to capacity building efforts for working group members.

For the IDP response, UNHCR invested in the unique potential of sports programmes and partnerships to achieve better outcomes for displaced and host communities in Abu Salim municipality – including girls, boys, young women, and young men. In Libya, years of prolonged conflict, political uncertainty, and protracted displacement have taken their toll on all aspects of life, exacerbating existing vulnerabilities and further limiting access to essential services for both Libyans and non-Libyans alike. Children and youth are particularly at risk and continue to be affected by violence and a general lack of socio-economic opportunities. The ‘Sport for Peace’ programme created a safe and conducive environment that supports children and youth to learn and grow while developing a stronger awareness of their rights, self-protection mechanisms, and opportunities for building peace.

In 2023, a total of 37 sessions were conducted by partner Moomken, including special sessions on World Refugee Day, International Youth Day and World Children’s Day. A total of 442 children joined the sessions in 12 groups, among them 309 displaced or IDP returnees and 133 refugee children. Part of the life-skills sessions accompanying the sports activities are sensibilization to climate change, conflict resolution to mitigate violent behavior, expression of emotions, inclusiveness, teamwork, empathy, gender equality and more. The joint participation of Libyan children and refugee/asylum-seeker children promoted inclusiveness and reduced stigmatization.

6. Outcome Area: Safety and Access to Justice

Refugees and asylum-seekers: Alternatives to immigration detention are applied and refugees and asylum-seekers are released into urban setting.

Progress Against the Desired Outcome

As of the end of December 2023, 4,229 foreign nationals were detained in detention centres (DC) run by the Directorate for Combatting Illegal Migration (DCIM). Most detainees were held in DCs in Tripoli and the remainder in the eastern region. Approximately 22 percent of detainees are potential people in need of international protection, and based on UNHCR's biodata collection and partners' observations, 324 of them are registered with UNHCR. The number of active DCIM-run DCs and people detained fluctuated continuously throughout the year. Sudanese nationals accounted for the largest group with 574 persons followed by Eritreans (134), Syrians (98), Somalians (56), Ethiopians (48), Yemenis (nine), and Palestinians (nine).

In 2023, the biodata of over 2,000 people with presumed international protection needs were collected in detention centres. Moreover, a total of 593 UNHCR and partners' detention visits for protection and detention monitoring, life-saving, and essential assistance including basic medical activities and referrals were conducted in 2023. During the detention visit, over 6,800 core relief items were distributed to migrants and refugees alike. A total of 249 detainees in need of protection were released through UNHCR advocacy in the year, and advocacy for other releases, albeit remaining unaddressed by the authorities, continued. Since September 2023, UNHCR started providing an opportunity for people with international protection needs in detention centres in Tripoli to call their families, aimed at improving their psycho-social wellbeing. A total of 102 individuals benefitted from this service.

Since June 2023, 6,157 migrants and people with international protection needs were intercepted at the border with Tunisia with a total of 29 dead bodies retrieved and over 80 people reported as missing. At the end of the year, the Ministry of Interior/Libyan Border Guard reported 621 people to be held at the Al-Assah facility with an estimated 50 percent being people in need of international protection, including women and children.

UNHCR and partner IRC continued providing life-saving activities at disembarkation points in Tripoli and Azzawya. A total of 16,670 persons were rescued/intercepted at sea in 233 operations, a decrease of 33 percent compared with 2022 (24,788 people). Sadly, 376 bodies were recovered along the Libyan shores in 2023.

7. Outcome Area: Community Engagement and Women's Empowerment

Host and displaced communities have strengthened capacity and greater interest in supporting peaceful coexistence and empowerment of their communities.

Indicators	Population Type	Strategy Baseline	Target (2023)	Actual (2023)
7.2 Proportion of people who have access to safe feedback and response mechanisms	Refugees and Asylum-seekers	70.00%	70.00%	100.00%
7.1 Extent participation of displaced and stateless people across programme phases is supported.	IDPs	Extensive: ≥70 points	Extensive: ≥70 points	Extensive: ≥70 points
7.1 Extent participation of displaced and stateless people across programme phases is supported.	Refugees and Asylum-seekers	Extensive: ≥70 points	Extensive: ≥70 points	Extensive: ≥70 points

Progress Against the Desired Outcome

In 2023, UNHCR expanded community engagement through its outreach teams to ensure protection through monitoring, screening, and referrals, as well as advocacy and support to refugees and asylum-seekers. It also included enhanced two-way communication with refugee communities, which allowed an increase in the protection space in urban settings. In 2023, UNHCR further engaged with people with

specific needs and disabilities through a series of focus group discussions in addition to the establishment of the information and communications needs assessment tool and enhancement of the Refugee Knowledge Base platform, update of the Help Page, and launched of the communication with communities (CwC) awareness sessions with urban refugees and asylum-seekers.

Concerning outreach activities, a total of 123 field visits were undertaken reaching over 2,300 refugees and asylum-seekers. During these visits, UNHCR and partner CESVI identified or followed up on protection needs and vulnerabilities, such as 152 unaccompanied boys, 58 unaccompanied girls, 359 people recently released from detention and 454 from trafficking camps, and 97 people with serious medical conditions, including seven people living with disabilities and 14 gender-based violence survivors. As a significant number of people reached were unaware of the locations of the nearest public health centers, UNHCR increased the dissemination of information on primary healthcare facilities and access to medical assistance which resulted in improved community access to health support in urban areas.

Community meetings and consultations remained an important part of the outreach activities with 27 sessions held reaching over 350 people in 2023. The meetings covered multiple topics such as available services, addressing misinformation, awareness of communication channels, and issues related to sit-ins and protests. Participants consisted of community volunteers, mobilizers, and urban refugees and asylum-seekers, with meetings taking place in person but also through WebEx App to ensure maximum reachability.

The Common Feedback Mechanism (CFM) provided information and addressed individual queries of mostly refugees and asylum-seekers (98 percent). In 2023, a total of 87,857 inquiries were received with 1,886 referrals made by the CFM operators (an increase of 33 percent compared with 2022). UNHCR Facebook Info Portal as well as the HelpPage noted increased interaction, with the latter having been consulted from over 139 countries, with most of the visits in the Arabic page section.

8. Outcome Area: Well-Being and Basic Needs

Refugees, asylum-seekers, IDPs, and IDP returnees with heightened risk or vulnerability can meet their basic needs

Indicators	Population Type	Strategy Baseline	Target (2023)	Actual (2023)
8.1 Proportion of people that receive cash transfers and/or non-food items	IDPs	44.05%	26.00%	56.36%
8.1 Proportion of people that receive cash transfers and/or non-food items	Refugees and Asylum-seekers	68.19%	75.00%	73.94%

Progress Against the Desired Outcome

In 2023, UNHCR and partners assisted 9,863 displaced people with cash assistance, among them 5,914 refugees and asylum-seekers, 3,898 IDPs and 51 conditional cash disbursements. The assistance enabled them to meet some of their basic needs and mitigate negative socio-economic impacts. The 6,412 protection needs assessments conducted in 2023 served as the basis for the selection of eligible refugees and asylum-seekers for cash assistance, whereas the 2,580 monitoring protection risks and durable solutions assessments (MPDSA) formed the basis for the selection of eligible internally displaced people for unrestricted cash assistance. Cash assistance for refugees and asylum-seekers was provided in a hybrid modality with part of the amount in cash whereas the rest was paid through vouchers to be used at pre-defined vendors. While this hybrid modality is not an optimal solution, it is the way to continue to provide cash assistance despite the ongoing liquidity crisis and restrictions on how much cash can be withdrawn by UNHCR and partners. Cash assistance for IDPs was paid out through pre-charged cash cards, as the legal document requirement by service providers is not an issue for IDPs compared to refugees.

Through the socio-economic survey conducted by the Joint Data Centre on Forced Displacement coordinated by UNHCR from 2022 onwards, data on the use of financial means, including indebtedness and negative coping mechanisms were analyzed in 2023, feeding into the work by the Cash & Market Working

Group activities relating to coordination and standardization of cash assistance across all working group members.

The MPDSA conducted with internally displaced people households identified high prices, lack of access to cash, and expensive transportation costs as the main market access barriers. A total of 536 endline post distribution monitoring interviews with refugees and IDPs were undertaken in 2023.

The distribution of non-food items reached 97,913 people through core relief items and hygiene kits in 2023, among them 36,776 refugees and asylum-seekers and 61,137 IDPs. A total of over 176,000 core relief items and 50,800 hygiene kits were distributed, among those 61,080 items through emergency assistance to flood-affected people. Whereas UNHCR phased out of core relief items distribution to IDPs at the beginning of 2023, the immediate flood response in the aftermath of Storm Daniel led to a reprioritization of activities. UNHCR provided affected Libyans and refugees alike with the most needed core relief items, such as blankets, soap, hygiene kits, kitchen sets, mattresses, plastic sheets, solar lamps, and jerry cans. Immediate dispatching of available items from the warehouse in Tripoli to Benghazi was organized, as well as two airlifts from the UNHCR global stockpile in Dubai received within days after the disaster hit.

9. Outcome Area: Sustainable Housing and Settlements

IDPs and IDP returnees have increased access to individual shelter opportunities while refugees and asylum-seekers with identified heightened vulnerabilities have increased access to alternative care arrangements and transitional shelter, pending solutions

Indicators	Population Type	Strategy Baseline	Target (2023)	Actual (2023)
9.1 Proportion of people living in habitable and affordable housing	IDPs	34.22%	34.00%	56.36%
9.1 Proportion of people living in habitable and affordable housing	Refugees and Asylum-seekers	28.57%	29.00%	28.23%

Progress Against the Desired Outcome

For a very limited number of refugees and asylum-seekers at very high risk, UNHCR together with partner International Rescue Committee (IRC) and in partnership with the Libyan Red Crescent operates a temporary shelter in Misrata for people for whom durable solutions outside Libya are already identified and very exceptional cases for which solutions are being searched for. In 2023, a total of 39 refugees and asylum-seekers were hosted in the Misrata shelter, among them 59 percent were female and also 59 percent were children. The majority of the people accommodated in the shelter were originally from Sudan (21 people), followed by eight Ethiopian nationals and seven individuals from Somalia.

For internally displaced Libyans, UNHCR in partnership with the Norwegian Refugee Council operated a small-scale shelter programme to address the needs of some IDPs returning to their original houses. These activities were implemented in Tawergha and Benghazi with house rehabilitation works benefitting 111 IDP families, among them 58 in Tawergha and 53 in Benghazi.

With the onset of the flood response in eastern Libya following the Storm Daniel devastation, UNHCR as the lead of the shelter and non-food items thematic area, coordinated the activities by the working group to ensure standardization and assistance respected minimal criteria and no overlap of assistance was occurring.

10. Outcome Area: Healthy Lives

Refugees and asylum-seekers: Access to health services is improved for refugees and asylum-seekers

Indicators	Population Type	Strategy Baseline	Target (2023)	Actual (2023)
10.2. Proportion of births attended by skilled health personnel	Refugees and Asylum-seekers	100.00%	40.00%	100.00%

Progress Against the Desired Outcome

UNHCR and its partner International Rescue Committee (IRC) continued to provide primary health care services, including mental and psychosocial support, to refugees and asylum-seekers in need of medical support. In 2023, a total of 21,223 people received primary medical consultations and 1,479 medical referrals to secondary or specialized facilities were conducted. The majority of health consultations were provided at two primary health care centres in Tripoli. Further, 5,597 primary medical assistance services were provided in detention centres, 1,025 basic medical interventions were undertaken at disembarkation points and 4,264 at the Community Day Centre in Tripoli.

Medical referrals to secondary health care facilities were mainly done from the services provided in the urban context with 1,884 referrals in 2023 but also 86 medical referrals of people in need of international protection held in detention and 34 from disembarkation points. UNHCR partner IRC operates a health hotline which assisted 1,572 individuals throughout 2023.

Regarding prenatal and postnatal care, UNHCR provided a comprehensive approach including safe deliveries and reproductive health needs of single mothers and survivors of gender-based violence among registered refugee and asylum-seekers.

Tuberculosis remained a concerning health issue among refugees and asylum-seekers but also migrants, especially in confined areas such as detention centres due to overcrowded and unsanitary conditions conducive to the spread of infectious diseases.

The mental well-being of people with international protection needs, if in detention or living in the urban context, was profoundly affected by the combination of conflict, displacement and the distressing conditions they have experienced in their countries of origin, en route or while in Libya. The prevalence of common mental health issues such as depression, anxiety and post-traumatic stress disorder was widely observed among the refugee and asylum-seeker population. With the arrival of Sudanese refugees since the outbreak of the conflict, those conditions were noticed increasingly, as well as of people who were caught in the Tunisia-Libya border situation. Concerns in regard to the unknown whereabouts of family members further increased the mental well-being of asylum-seekers in 2023. A total of 1,913 mental health and psychological support services were provided in 2023.

UNHCR provided two rubble halls, four prefab containers to be used as mobile medical clinics, medicines for 10,000 patients and two generators, to the Ministry of Health in Benghazi, to support the government efforts in improving the national health services and in responding to the flood affected population in the east.

11. Outcome Area: Education

Refugees and asylum-seekers: Children have unhindered access to the national education system

Indicators	Population Type	Strategy Baseline	Target (2023)	Actual (2023)
11.2 Proportion of children and young people enrolled in the national education system	Refugees and Asylum-seekers	1.25%	3.00%	1.14%

Progress Against the Desired Outcome

With a fragile political environment, weak rule of law, and the lack of a national asylum system, refugee and asylum-seeker children remained at high risk of being left behind. Despite Libya having ratified the Convention on the Rights of Children as well as other relevant conventions and having a free public education system for Libyan and foreign children in theory, access for refugee and asylum-seeker children remained hindered. This was mainly due to different impediments such as documentation requirements, enrolment fees, language barriers, increased xenophobia towards refugees and asylum-seekers, especially those of non-Arab nationalities. Only 12 percent of children registered with UNHCR being of school age had access to primary or secondary school education. Children not attending school from refugee and asylum-seeking households are among the most vulnerable as they are at a higher risk of exploitation, including child labor, and early marriage, while simultaneously having multiple legal and physical protection needs.

As part of the UNHCR-UNICEF Strategic Collaboration Framework, UNHCR maintained the established referral mechanism with UNICEF to ensure school-aged refugee and asylum-seeking children had access to education case management, enrolment in non-formal education, and remedial classes through UNICEF education partners and facilities.

While 390 children were referred to UNICEF, UNHCR and UNICEF's joint advocacy saw the inclusion of 140 children in formal education in schools across Libya in 2023. Through the support of UNICEF, children who could not be enrolled in formal education had access to their 'Baity Centres' where they received non-formal education.

Complementary to the enrolment, as part of the humanitarian-development nexus, UNHCR working in close collaboration with local authorities and the Ministry of Education provided support to re-establish damaged education facilities with eight schools rehabilitated in 2023 benefitting over 7,000 children, including Libyans, IDPs, and refugees. This aimed to increase school capacities and provide an enhanced environment for quality education. Further, UNHCR distributed 2,500 school kits to mitigate the risk of financial barriers to school enrolment aiming to increase the number of refugee and asylum-seeker children attending formal education.

Throughout 2023, UNHCR actively participated in the Education Working Group with coordination strengthened during the Derna flood response which led to an efficient response and lack of duplicated activities between UNHCR and its partners.

15. Outcome Area: Resettlement and Complementary Pathways

Refugees and asylum-seekers: Vulnerable refugees and asylum-seekers have access to increased resettlement opportunities, including humanitarian evacuation and complementary pathways

Indicators	Population Type	Strategy Baseline	Target (2023)	Actual (2023)
15.1 Number of refugees submitted by UNHCR for resettlement	Refugees and Asylum-seekers	464	650	750
15.2 Average processing time from resettlement submission to departure under normal priority	Refugees and Asylum-seekers	479.00	400.00	459.00

Progress Against the Desired Outcome

In 2023, UNHCR continued to focus on direct resettlement and complementary pathways, including humanitarian evacuations, family reunifications, and private sponsorships for refugees and asylum-seekers at heightened risks or with family connections in third countries. People registered with UNHCR in need of durable solutions were identified from UNHCR's database and internal as well as external referrals and

processed through the protection unit.

With many more refugees and asylum-seekers in need of durable solutions than available slots, thorough screening and assessments by the Joint Identification panel and/or the Durable Solutions panel were undertaken. In 2023, a resettlement quota of 695 individuals was provided to the Libya operation, representing an increase of 73 percent compared with the quota received in 2022 (400 individuals). While a decrease on resettlement pledges has been observed among destination countries that traditionally provided a considerable quota, new resettlement countries emerged allowing for a greater diversity of destination countries.

A total of 1,723 people were identified as eligible for resettlement, whereas 750 individuals were submitted based on the quotas received. Of the submitted resettlement cases, the majority were survivors of violence and/or torture (67 percent) followed by women and girls at-risk (17 percent), legal and/or physical protection needs (10 percent), and people with serious medical conditions (4 percent). In 2023, the acceptance rate by destination countries of cases submitted by UNHCR remained as the previous year at 97 percent.

In close collaboration with IOM and the Libyan authorities for exit permits, a total of 409 refugees departed to their resettlement destination country in 2023.

UNHCR continued the strategic use of the humanitarian evacuations through the Emergency Transit Mechanisms (ETMs) in Niger and Rwanda with 785 people evacuated through four flights to the ETM Rwanda (606 people) and one flight to the ETM Niger (179 people). With the sudden political context in Niger changing in July 2023, resettlement missions to Niger were cancelled as well as departures, not allowing UNHCR Libya to send further evacuation flights. The ETM evacuations comprised 40 percent female and 60 percent male evacuees, among them 79 unaccompanied or separated children. Eritrean and Sudanese nationals were the largest groups with 347 and 305 evacuees respectively, followed by people from Ethiopia, Somalia, and South Sudan.

A total of 66 refugees departed through other complementary pathways such as eight people on family reunification, four through humanitarian visas, and 54 people through private sponsorship.

A renewal of the memorandum of understanding with Italy on the humanitarian admission programme was signed in late 2023 foreseeing the evacuation of 1,400 people from Libya to Italy in the next three years.

2.2. Age, Gender and Diversity

In 2023, within the framework of UNHCR's policy on accountability to affected populations (AAP), UNHCR built on the findings of participatory needs assessment as a baseline for the development of the operation's 2023-2025 multi-year strategy. UNHCR kept the activities started in 2022 while adding increased targets, expanded geographical scope of field visits, and enhanced means of communication with communities (CwC). This ensured refugees and asylum-seekers played a bigger role in making decisions that affect their lives. In 2023, UNHCR further engaged with people with specific needs and disabilities through a series of focus group discussions, in addition to the development of the information and communications needs assessment. Further, the Refugee Knowledge Base platform, Help Page, and the launching of CwC awareness sessions with urban refugees, and the establishment of a child-friendly space at the Registration Centre in Tripoli, were implemented. More specifically, a total of 123 field visits were conducted reaching 2,368 individuals which consisted of a 45 percent increase compared with 2022. In 2023, 27 community meetings were conducted with 354 people from the refugee and asylum-seeker community. Ten focus group discussions with people living with disabilities were conducted to allow the identification of areas in need of further engagement with concerned groups.

Following Storm Daniel in eastern Libya, UNHCR delivered life-saving assistance to the affected population as part of the joint UN response, ensuring that all AAP mechanisms were in place, including through a dedicated UNHCR hotline, WhatsApp and email communication. Following the distribution of core relief items and hygiene kits, UNHCR conducted a post distribution monitoring. Nevertheless, the effective use of the AAP mechanisms in the east remains low with only 3 percent of beneficiaries that used the Common Feedback Mechanism being IDPs from the east. This can be attributed to several factors such as affected populations, being mainly IDPs, are either not aware of these mechanisms and/or are reluctant to use them

and prefer addressing authorities.

Section 3: Resources

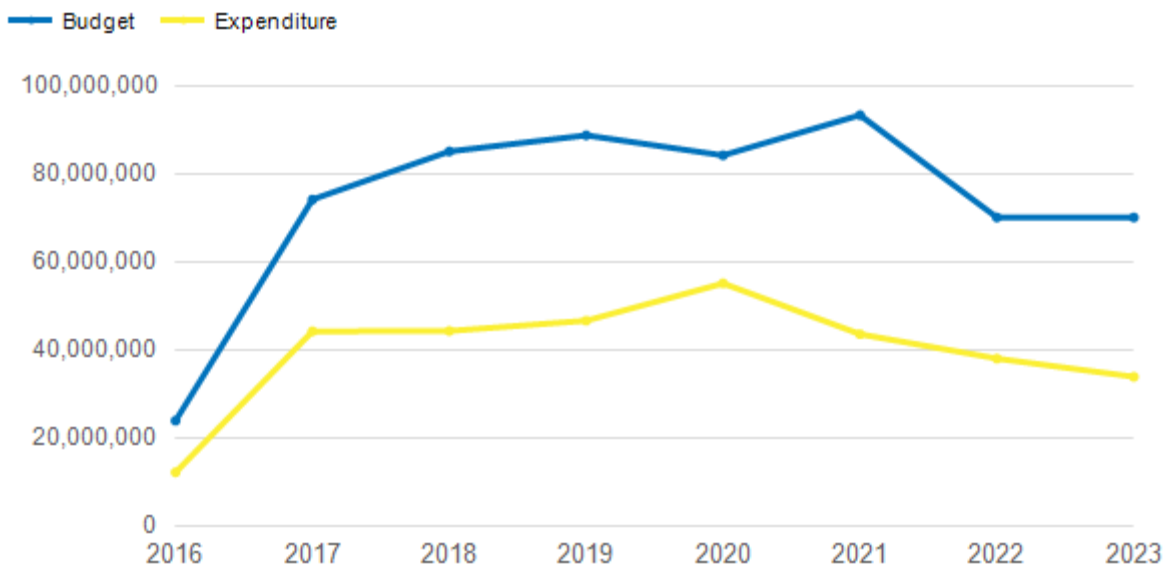
3.1 Financial Data

(Financial figures in USD)

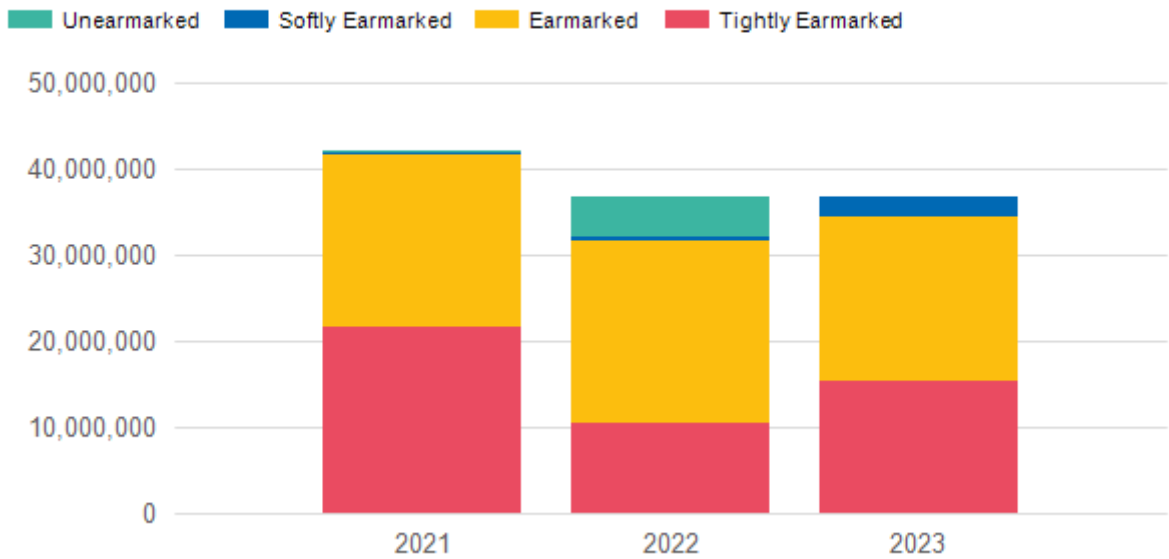
Impact Area	Final Budget	Funds Available	Funds Available as % of Budget	Expenditure	Expenditure as % of Funds Available
IA1: Protect	19,445,508	8,601,324	44.23%	8,601,324	100.00%
IA2: Assist	36,448,583	19,351,905	53.09%	19,351,905	100.00%
IA3: Empower	9,624,401	3,933,714	40.87%	3,933,714	100.00%
IA4: Solve	4,481,508	1,941,972	43.33%	1,941,972	100.00%
All Impact Areas		3,294,785			
Total	70,000,000	37,123,700	53.03%	33,828,915	91.12%

Outcome Area	Final Budget	Funds Available	Funds Available as % of Budget	Expenditure	Expenditure as % of Funds Available
OA1: Access/Doc	2,885,282	2,251,925	78.05%	2,251,925	100.00%
OA2: Status	2,607,639	802,250	30.77%	802,250	100.00%
OA3: Policy/Law	1,101,851	466,706	42.36%	466,706	100.00%
OA4: GBV	4,997,103	2,012,044	40.26%	2,012,044	100.00%
OA5: Children	4,294,403	1,769,163	41.20%	1,769,163	100.00%
OA6: Justice	3,109,568	832,530	26.77%	832,530	100.00%
OA7: Community	8,155,400	3,617,344	44.36%	3,617,344	100.00%
OA8: Well-being	23,041,471	12,987,589	56.37%	12,987,589	100.00%
OA9: Housing	6,882,106	3,039,387	44.16%	3,039,387	100.00%
OA10: Health	6,525,007	3,324,929	50.96%	3,324,929	100.00%
OA11: Education	1,469,001	316,370	21.54%	316,370	100.00%
OA15: Resettle	4,481,508	1,941,972	43.33%	1,941,972	100.00%
EA20: External	449,663	466,706	103.79%	466,706	100.00%
All Outcome Areas		3,294,785			
Total	70,000,000	37,123,700	53.03%	33,828,915	91.12%

Budget and Expenditure Trend



Contributions Trend by Type



3.2. Resources Overview

In 2023, UNHCR received USD 36 million out of a budget of USD 70 million, representing a funding level of 52 percent against the overall financial needs. An implementation rate of 99 percent was achieved, with 66 percent of the resources allocated to implementing partners and 44 percent through direct implementation.

The main factors determining the use of resources laid in prioritization by the severity of the vulnerability and the immediate life-saving character of assistance, thus focusing on community-based protection, emergency cash assistance, health services, and emergency response to crisis.

Due to funding limitations, the scope of some interventions, such as health services, including mental health and secondary medical referrals, and the IDP programme, were affected. Reallocations of funds and

adjustments to targets were necessary due to operational limitations such as a reduced number of evacuation flights. These funds were then used to support unforeseen situations at the Tunisia border, the arrival of Sudanese refugees, and flood response in eastern Libya, thus ensuring emergency life-saving interventions were in place.

In 2023, the Libya operation maintained its structure with 186 personnel, headed by a Chief of Mission, supported by a Deputy and an Assistant Chief of Mission (Protection). The operation's presence remained as of 2022, with the main office in Tripoli, the field office in Benghazi, and the back office in Tunis. The presence of two national staff in Azzawya and one in Misrata was maintained in 2023 to ensure implementation of protection activities and to oversee disembarkations in these locations.

Due to limited and unpredictable visa provisions for international staff, UNHCR kept eight rooms at the UN compound in Tripoli for accommodation and one room at the Benghazi hub, as well as eight workstations in the same hub.

A comprehensive staffing review was implemented to address operational needs and manage resources efficiently. The review resulted in the redeployment of 11 positions from Libya to Tunis, maintaining only nine international positions in Libya, with one in Benghazi. Additionally, 19 positions were inactivated, including nine international and 10 national positions.

Section 4: Lessons Learned and Future Outlook

4.1 Lessons Learned and Future Outlook

In 2023, UNHCR Libya faced several and changing challenges, including political instability, economic volatility, and natural disasters. Among the key lessons and strategic outlook are:

The unforeseen severity of Storm Daniel, highlighting the critical need for adaptability in the operational strategy and enhanced preparedness for natural disasters;

The ongoing political instability and volatile security situation in Libya, coupled with the disaster's aftermath, reinforcing the importance of sustained engagement and constructive dialogue with all stakeholders, including local authorities, international partners, and affected communities. In this regard, maintaining open channels of communication was instrumental in navigating the complexities of the operational environment, facilitating access, and ensuring the continuity of assistance to those in need;

The response to the disaster situation and broader operational challenges underscored the value of strategic partnerships. Collaborating with local, national, and international partners was vital in mobilizing resources, sharing expertise, and amplifying the collective impact on the ground. These partnerships have not only bolstered UNHCR's response efforts but have also paved the way for innovative solutions to long-standing challenges, among those the engagement of local partners, including new partners, with full access across the country including flood-affected areas or areas with high numbers of Sudanese refugee arrivals.

Engaging with assisted communities provided an important understanding of context and needs, guiding interventions and ensuring they are corresponding to the actual needs and priorities through fostering trust, building resilience, and empowering individuals and communities to be active participants.



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