

July 2021

Key figures:

15,241 refugees and migrants rescued/intercepted at sea so far in 2021

11,646 refugees and migrants rescued/intercepted at sea by the Libyan Coast Guard in 2020

1,735 hygiene kits distributed in 2021

723 emergency medical consultations in 2021 (648 in 2020)

3,369 food items provided in 2021

Situation Update

As of 6 July 2021, the Libyan Coast Guard (LCG) has rescued/intercepted 15,241 refugees and migrants at sea. June 2021 has so far proven the highest month for interceptions/rescues at sea with 4,523 recorded in 33 operations, with some 29 per cent of all disembarkations and operations in 2021 having occurred during this month: on 12 June, more than **1,000 individuals** were disembarked in Tripoli and at Al-Zawiya (45 km west of Tripoli). This compares to just 1,498 over the whole of June 2020. As with the previous four months, favourable weather conditions for those attempting the crossing to Europe, have contributed to the increase. Of those who were disembarked in June 2021, the population comprised 4,065 men, 280 women and 178 children, with the largest groups of nationals from Mali, Bangladesh and Sudan. Of those disembarked, 55 per cent were brought to the Tripoli Naval Base (TNB), with 34 per cent later taken to the Al-Mabani detention centre in Tripoli and in a new trend and increased number (27.5%) taken to Ain Zara DC, Tripoli.

In 2021 so far, of those identified, 87 per cent are male, 7 per cent female, and 6 per cent classed as children. Sudanese made up the largest number (19%), followed by those from Bangladesh (15%) and Mali (13.5%). UNHCR and its partner International Rescue Committee provide urgent medical assistance, core-relief items and identify persons in need of international protection. In 2021, 65.7 per cent of disembarkation took place at the TNB and a further 25 per cent occurred at the Tripoli Commercial Port (Mena Al Tijari); fewer than 5 per cent of those disembarked have shortly been released, but with 55.7 per cent taken to Al-Mabani and 19 per cent to Ain Zara detention centre. In 2021, 116 persons were reported as missing (176 in all 2020) with 67 bodies recovered from the sea (141 in 2020), with several shipwrecks having been reported over the course of the year.

UNHCR Response

UNHCR's primary objective when intervening at disembarkation points is to save lives through the provision of emergency humanitarian assistance and to ensure the early identification and immediate protection of UNHCR persons of concern. As part of the response to mixed movements by sea, appropriate disembarkation and reception arrangements are needed to ensure that the immediate registration and basic needs of people involved in such movements can be met and tailored according to their specific needs. UNHCR reiterates that **Libya is not a safe port** of disembarkation.

UNHCR undertakes protection monitoring and provides humanitarian and medical assistance in all accessible disembarkation points. UNHCR also contributed to the improvement of reception conditions at six of the disembarkation points, namely through the construction of water and sanitation facilities, health posts and shaded areas to protect refugees and migrants from the elements, including rain and high/low temperatures.

