

April 2018

Key figures

51,519 registered refugees and asylum seekers in Libya

450 individuals processed for resettlement

1,342 individuals relocated from Libya (312 to Italy, 1,020 to ETM Niger, and 10 to Romania) as of 20 March 2018

5,000 individuals targeted for resettlement and evacuations in 2018

Situation Update

Libya is neither a party to the 1951 Refugee Convention nor to its 1967 Protocol, but is a signatory to the 1969 OAU Convention Governing the Specific Aspects of Refugee Problems in Africa. Libya has yet to enact national legislation or administrative procedures to provide the basis for a functioning asylum and protection system. Illegal entry to Libya is penalized under Law 19 of 2010. **In the absence of a government-led mechanism, UNHCR undertakes Refugee Status Determination (RSD) by virtue of its Mandate.**

UNHCR has received a total of 16,940 places for 15 countries along the Central Mediterranean route. In December 2017, UNHCR launched an urgent appeal calling for 1,300 resettlement places to be made available by the end of March 2018 specifically for highly vulnerable refugees stranded in Libya. UNHCR has received a total of 1,090 confirmed pledges for resettlement directly out of Libya, including 388 places provided by European countries.

UNHCR has scaled up its resettlement and humanitarian evacuations programme, with a view to provide solutions in third countries for the most vulnerable refugees and asylum seekers in Libya. On the one hand, as of 20 March 2018, UNHCR has evacuated 1,342 refugees from Libya to third countries (312 to Italy and 1,020 to the UNHCR Emergency Transit Mechanism (ETM) in Niger, and ten to Romania). In Niger, refugees are processed to find a durable solution, including resettlement to a third country.

UNHCR has referred 450 cases for direct resettlement from Libya. These to date include referred to Canada, France, Italy, Sweden and Switzerland. By the end of 2018, UNHCR plans to resettle or relocate more than 5,000 individuals out of Libya to third countries.

UNHCR's Resettlement process in Libya

Resettlement and evacuation are used as protection tools in Libya. Refugees in need of resettlement are initially identified through registration activities, followed by a heightened risk screening for those with specific needs. Identification is also made through other protection activities conducted by UNHCR and partners, such as detention centre visits, counselling and outreach activities at Community Development Centres (CDC).

Due to the remote management situation, RSD and resettlement interviews are currently conducted both remotely from Tunis and in Tripoli with the support of national staff on the ground. Cases are identified through both internal and external referrals and reviewed by designated UNHCR staff. Anti-fraud measures are also in place. Given the operational context, resettlement countries are encouraged to be flexible when processing cases, such as through Skype interviews. UNHCR is prepared to support short resettlement missions to Tripoli as necessary. Confidential interview rooms are available at UNHCR's office in Tripoli for Skype interviews to be conducted by resettlement countries.

1,792 refugees and asylum-seekers reached with solutions since Sept 2017: **450** resettlement submissions to third countries and **1,342** individuals evacuated from Libya (**1,020** to Niger, **312** to Italy and **10** to Romania)

Thank you to our donors supporting solutions for UNHCR persons of concern in Libya

