

LIBYA

22 October 2021

Key Figures:

212,593 Libyans currently internally displaced (IDPs)¹

643,123 IDP returnees¹

41,681 registered refugees and asylum seekers²

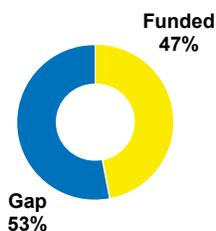
257 monitoring visits to detention centres in 2021

158 refugees and asylum seekers released from detention in 2021

6,544 vulnerable refugees and asylum seekers departed since 2017 (345 so far in 2021)

Funding:

USD **93.0** M required for 2021



USD **44.0** M received.

¹ IOM-DTM June 2021.

² Data as of 1 October 2021.

Population Movements

So far in 2021, a total of 26,705 refugees and migrants have been reported as rescued/intercepted by the Libyan Coast Guard (LCG). On 17 October, 98 people disembarked at Azzawya Refinery Point including five women and 12 children. On 18 October, 119 people disembarked at Tripoli Naval Base including ten women and five children. Most individuals were transferred to detention facilities. UNHCR and medical partner, the International Rescue Committee (IRC), were present at disembarkation points to provide urgent medical assistance and Core Relief Items (CRIs). So far this year, 194 boats were disembarked; with 347 persons reported missing and 109 bodies recovered.



UNHCR staff providing assistance at the disembarkation point. ©UNHCR

UNHCR Response

Large numbers of people affected by the broad security operation launched by the Libyan authorities in Tripoli this month continue to gather outside the Community Day Centre (CDC). Activities there remain suspended for safety and security reasons. However, some services, including food and emergency cash assistance, are ongoing in other locations, targeting some of most vulnerable people including those who had been in detention or lost homes and belongings as a result of the raids and arrests. Since 1 October, UNHCR carried out 13 home visits to refugee caregivers and community mobilisers who have been hosting others displaced during the security operations to assess needs and provide food, hygiene kits and cash assistance. As of 20 October, 361 individuals have received food baskets, and 589 persons have received emergency cash assistance or a mix of cash and gift cards. Registration staff have replaced UNHCR documentation that was lost or destroyed in the raids and provided counselling.

In a press statement, **UNHCR urged the Libyan government to address the dire situation of asylum seekers and refugees in a humane and rights-based manner, to halt their arbitrary arrest and release them from detention.** UNHCR stands ready to support the Libyan authorities develop an urgent plan of action that could help alleviate their suffering.

As of 20 October, there are 7,055 persons in detention centres across Libya, of whom 2,564 individuals are of concern to UNHCR. Since 1 October, when thousands of asylum seekers were arrested and detained by the Libyan authorities in the security sweep, UNHCR has been carrying out verification exercises to identify persons of concern to advocate for their release, including those prioritised for humanitarian evacuation flights, which have been suspended for most of the year. This week, UNHCR, through partner IRC, also distributed core relief items (CRIs) to 541 women and children at Shara Zawya detention centre.

UNHCR continues its winter assistance programme, distributing CRIs to persons of concern in Libya. On 20 and 21 October, UNHCR, through partner LibAid, distributed CRIs to displaced 536 Tawerghan families currently living in different locations of Tripoli.

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