



**Presence and national legal framework**

UNHCR has been present in Libya since 1991. It has been carrying out a number of activities including registration, refugee status determination (RSD), durable solutions such as repatriation and resettlement and provision of assistance to urban refugees and other persons of concern. Libya is a signatory to the 1969 Convention of the Organization of the African Union (OAU) governing the specific aspects of refugee problems in Africa but is not party to the 1951 Convention relating to the Status of Refugees. In the absence of a national asylum system, registration of asylum seekers is carried out by UNHCR. Yet pending the formalization of the relations between UNHCR and the Libyan government, RSD is not conducted systematically nor are durable solutions available to recognized refugees.

**Operational background**

In consultation with the government, UNHCR is working to expand the protection space and re-establish refugee processing activities, including registration, refugee status determination and the implementation of durable solutions such as resettlement. During and after the conflict, UNHCR has provided emergency shelter, cash assistance, medical care and educational support to persons of concern including internally displaced persons. Current activities focus registration of asylum seekers, assistance of persons of concern in detention and urban settings and on capacity building such as training and information sessions with representatives of civil society organisations, government officials and research centres in Libya. Special attention is given to Syrian asylum seekers displaced in Libya (photo above). With positive signals from the government, UNHCR stands ready to provide technical assistance toward establishing national asylum institutions including RSD and durable solutions.

Map of Libya



Refugees and asylum seekers as of 30 November 2013

Country of origin	Refugees	Asylum seekers	Total
Syria	68	15,830	15,898
Eritrea	488	2,827	3,315
Somalia	177	1,683	1,860
Iraq	2,497	595	3,092
Sudan	676	463	1,139
Other	4,593	570	5,163
<b>Total</b>	<b>8,499</b>	<b>21,968</b>	<b>30,467</b>

**UNHCR staffing and budget**

**Staffing:** UNHCR has offices in Benghazi and Tripoli with a total of 37 national staff and 5 international staff.

**Budget:** 2012 expenditures: US 7,078,958 and 2013 requirements: US 16,555,150.

**IDPs in Libya as of April 2013**

Area of origin	Individuals
Misrata	6,122
Tawergha	30,000
Sirte	9,404
Bani Walid	362
Western mountains	9,200
Nalut	1,403
Ghadames	2,402
Kufra	292
Sabha	240
<b>Total</b>	<b>59,425</b>

**Partnerships**

**Government counterpart:** Ministry of Foreign Affairs.  
**Libyan partners:** Libyan Humanitarian Agency (LibAid).  
**International partners:** CESVI and International Medical Corps.  
**Operational partners:** Médecins Sans Frontières, ICRC, IOM, UNICEF and UNSMIL.

## CORE ACTIVITIES

### Refugees and asylum seekers

As of 30 November 2013, 8,499 refugees and 21,968 asylum seekers were registered with UNHCR in Libya. Most refugees and asylum seekers live in urban areas. In particular, UNHCR:

- Conducts regular protection monitoring to identify, register and document persons in need of international protection.
- Accesses detention centres to assist persons of concern, facilitate release of vulnerable cases, delivers relief items in detention and advocates alternatives to detention.
- Through implementing partners CESVI and International Medical Corps provides assistance to refugees in terms of education, health, psycho-social counselling and legal assistance.

### Syrian displacement

Since 2011 an increasing number of persons fleeing Syria has sought protection in Libya. Some of them are vulnerable and have special needs. As of 30 November 2013, UNHCR registered 15,898 persons fleeing from Syria.

- UNHCR monitors, profiles and registers asylum seekers from Syria.
- Relief items and cash assistance are provided on a regular basis to vulnerable Syrians through UNHCR's partner, CESVI.

### Mixed migration

A significant number of migrants continue to enter Libya using irregular channels. Among these populations some people are in need of international protection. Accordingly, UNHCR:

- Convenes trainings on core protection principles and refugee law in the context of mixed-migration for government officials, civil society and other actors (*see box on the right*).
- Provides assistance with the identification of people in need of international protection as well as unaccompanied minors, victims of trafficking and other vulnerable individuals.
- Collaborates with relevant national and international partners to share information on rescue at sea and to support, through its offices in Rome, Malta and Tripoli, the coordination efforts between all three countries.

### Internally displaced persons

The absence of durable solutions for the remaining IDP communities in Libya continues to remain a source of serious concern. Out of more than 550,000 persons displaced in Libya during the revolution, the large majority have been able to return to their places of origin. Yet, some 59,425 persons face a situation of protracted displacement. These include IDPs from Tawergha, Mushashya, Siaan and other communities. UNHCR supports interim and durable solutions and the reconciliation process for IDPs

## Capacity building activities

Collaboration with Libyan civil society: UNHCR regularly organises trainings in Tripoli, Benghazi and Sabha with Libyan NGOs on international protection principles, property rights and camp management including Libyan Youth Forum, H20, Child Promise and Nawaris.

Training with the Libyan government: On 16-18 June 2013, UNHCR Libya held the second training for government officials on international protection. The training focused on the definition of refugee under the 1951 Convention, the principle of *non-refoulement*, UNHCR's mandate, data protection and registration of refugees and issuing attestations. Representatives from Ministry of Justice, Ministry of Defense and Ministry of Interior including the Department for Combating Irregular Migration, Libyan Coast Guard and the Immigration Authority attended the training.

Oxford - Tripoli course on forced migration: In June 2013, UNHCR completed the course on forced-migration at the University of Tripoli in collaboration with the Refugees Studies Centre (RSC) at the University of Oxford. Approximately 25 students from law, politics and economics attended the course run by professors from the Universities of Oxford and Tripoli. This is the first course on forced migration ever convened in Libya.



Marathon with IDP and refugee children  
World Refugee Day (June 2013)



Oxford - Tripoli course on forced migration (June 2013)

### Donors of UNHCR Libya

European Commission and Switzerland

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