



Assessment of Vulnerabilities and Needs Among Newly Arrived Sudanese Refugees in Libya

November 2024

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KEY FINDINGS

Key findings are based on surveys conducted in August and September 2024 with 274 Sudanese refugee households who arrived in Libya after April 2023 in areas where the IRC operates.

This assessment aims to understand the vulnerabilities and needs of newly arrived Sudanese refugees in Libya post-April 2023 to inform policy advocacy, foster collaboration among stakeholders, and enhance the delivery of essential services .

The arrival of Sudanese refugees is a unique situation to Libya requiring a holistic response

Since April 2023, nearly 200,000 Sudanese refugees have arrived in Libya, presenting unique challenges for conventional programming. Many arrive with families and pre-existing ties to Libya, necessitating a shift beyond emergency assistance towards tailored, holistic support. This approach must leverage the refugees' skills, foster collaboration with local communities, and strengthen public systems.

This is a different demographic to what we are used to

Demographics data shows that Sudanese are arriving in family units, often with young children, including unaccompanied and separated children. This creates a unique set of challenges and opportunities, and both humanitarian actors and authorities are struggling to understand how to respond in the Libyan context.

Challenges differ from one region to another

Significant regional differences impact the needs and experiences of Sudanese refugees. Safety and protection (76%) and nutrition (55%) concerns are especially pronounced in Western Libya. Meanwhile, employment is the biggest challenge in the South (66%) and East (60%). Access to education is the second largest Challenge in the South (56%) and East (47%), and access to healthcare equally in the East (47%). These regional variations underscore the need for a location-specific approach.

While many want to leave, many are still undecided

44% of respondents do not intent to stay in Libya. 42% remain uncertain, as living conditions in Libya become increasingly challenging. This shift requires programming that supports sustainable livelihoods. The focus should be on enabling Sudanese to contribute positively to local economies and supporting them in achieving stability and self-sufficiency.

New arrivals are highly educated and have high educational aspirations

85% are secondary or university-educated, bringing valuable skills that can benefit Libya, especially in healthcare, education, financial services and engineering. Barriers to recognizing qualifications and employment must be addressed through documentation support and targeted vocational programs.

Education is a priority for Sudanese families, but systemic barriers such as documentation (36%), fees (25%) and limited spaces (19%) issues hinder access. Inclusive educational programming is essential to meet these needs.

Documentation and legal status are critical barriers

Access to documents such as issuing passports, residency permits, and legal status remains inconsistent, limiting the ability of new arrivals to access services and secure employment. Efforts must prioritize streamlining the documentation process, collaborating with Libyan authorities, and engaging with the Sudanese Embassy to ensure legal protections for Sudanese refugees.

Shelter is a major issue throughout Libya

Over 70% of refugees face inadequate housing, which impacts economic stability and access to services. Addressing this need is crucial for overall well-being, especially for vulnerable groups. Shelter solutions that are both affordable and stable could mitigate the compounding impact of poor housing on other areas of refugees' lives.

KEY FINDINGS

Employment is a major concern, and opportunities exist

56% of respondents cited employment as one of their top challenges and 30% cited that employment is the main factor influencing their decision to stay or leave Libya. However, there are opportunities: as Sudanese refugees bring valuable skills and experience to Libya, particularly in healthcare, education, and domestic work, areas in which Libya has a growing demand.

Access to government services is relatively high for WASH and healthcare but remains low for education and legal aid

While access to public WASH and healthcare services is relatively high, education and legal aid remain limited. Strengthening public services through initiatives like the IRC's ACCESS project is necessary, and improving access to education and legal aid through targeted advocacy to address barriers in these areas and ensure that Sudanese refugees can fully utilize essential services.

Nutrition and water – gaps to be filled

Nutrition is a critical need identified by 70% of respondents, and water was an urgent need by 48% respondents in the South, where water scarcity exacerbates conditions. Coordinated efforts with government and municipal authorities are needed to address these gaps and stabilize communities.

Strengthening relationships with government authorities and the Sudanese embassy

Authorities are struggling to understand how to respond to the growing Sudanese refugees needs, and play a big role in the response in Alkufra and beyond. Government authorities provide registration and basic services but struggle to offer holistic support. While the Sudanese Embassy assists with issues of documentation, yet faces challenges in reaching all refugees. INGOs have a vital role to play in bridging these gaps, supporting government services, and building local capacity. Collaborating with Libyan authorities and the

Sudanese Embassy is essential to bridge service gaps and build local capacity. A renewed, cooperative approach will foster sustainable and inclusive support for refugees.

High levels of bullying and discrimination highlights potential social tension

Bullying and discrimination are a safety concern for both women (35% and 16%) and men (12% and 8%), especially in relation to education and housing, highlight potential social tension. Initiatives that promote cultural exchange, such as community events, can build trust and reduce conflict.

Transit cities are important

Transit cities in Libya are key points for Sudanese refugees where essential support, such as nutrition, can significantly impact their safety and well-being. Enhancing service delivery in transit cities—covering healthcare, temporary shelters, and food distribution—supports refugees while easing pressure on local resources.

Information Gaps and Limited INGO Presence

Information was identified as an urgent need in Eastern (33%) and Southern (20%) Libya, where the limited presence of NGOs and community support networks could lead to misinformation and restricted access to resources. Creating dedicated information hubs and community liaison points in these regions would give refugees reliable guidance.

An Advocacy Opportunity for All Refugees

The arrival of Sudanese refugees provides a unique advocacy opportunity to push for improved conditions for all refugees in Libya. By spotlighting the needs, contributions, and challenges faced by Sudanese refugees, the current situation allows NGOs and policymakers to advance broader refugee protections and service improvements. This advocacy could lead to policy changes that benefit all displaced communities in Libya, setting a foundation for a more inclusive and rights-respecting approach to refugee support in the country.

INTRODUCTION

Since April 2023, devastating conflict in Sudan has led to one of world's largest humanitarian crises. According to IOM, as of October 2024¹, more than eight million people have now been internally displaced due to the conflict where more than three million have fled to neighboring countries. UNHCR estimates that around 200,000 Sudanese refugees have arrived in Libya since April 2023. Other entities and Libyan authorities are speculating the numbers are much higher. However, only a small number of these new arrivals have been registered by UNHCR in Libya (some 26,000) bringing the total number of Sudanese registered by UNHCR (including those had been displaced before April 2023) to 46,000.

Alkufra is a key entry point to Libya for Sudanese refugees, and is now receiving approximately 350 new arrivals from Sudan each day. Recent flooding in the region has also impacted critical local infrastructure, with some refugees forced to take temporary shelter in schools. However, most refugees are seeking to continue north to main cities such as Tripoli or Benghazi where there are better job opportunities and services, or to try and cross the sea towards Europe.

In other cities, the situation of Sudanese is also complex and multifaceted. An increase in the number of Sudanese refugees in most areas in which the IRC operates has necessitated this study and for a better understanding of the challenges and needs of newly arrived Sudanese refugees.

The primary purpose of this assessment is to gain a comprehensive understanding of the vulnerabilities, needs, and living conditions of Sudanese refugees in Libya who have arrived after April 2023, specifically in areas where the IRC operates. The insights gained from this assessment will inform collective policy advocacy efforts to push for improved access to essential services and legal support for Sudanese refugees in Libya. Additionally, this assessment seeks to foster collaboration among stakeholders, including local authorities, UN agencies, and other humanitarian agencies, to ensure a unified response to the challenges faced by newly arrived Sudanese refugees. By sharing findings, the humanitarian community can strengthen community support systems, optimizing the

delivery of essential services such as health, education, and mental health support.

Methodology

This assessment employs a mixed-methods approach, utilizing both quantitative and qualitative research techniques to gather comprehensive data on the vulnerabilities and needs of Sudanese refugees who have entered Libya after April 2023. The assessment focuses on several key objectives: identifying the specific needs and challenges of Sudanese refugees, understanding their access to essential services, and evaluating their overall well-being. This methodology is designed to yield actionable insights that enhance the effectiveness of humanitarian responses in Libya.

The primary focus is cities where the IRC operates where the survey aimed to understand the demographics, needs, and living conditions of Sudanese refugees in Tripoli (including Zawiyah, Wershifana), Benghazi, Jabal Akhdar, Sebha, Brak Alshati, Misurata, Bani Walid, Sirte, and Ajdabiya. The total sample size included 274 households, selected based on their accessibility and proximity to IRC's operational areas.

Data Collection and Analysis

The data collection involved a structured household survey with both closed and open-ended questions, designed to capture social, economic, and demographic information.

A team of trained data collectors, community volunteers, and community health workers carried out data collection across the identified regions. They visited neighborhoods and shelters where Sudanese refugees reside, including community centers like the Community Day Centre (CDC), Libyan Red Crescent (LRC) Shelter, and Baiy Centres. Home visits were also conducted in numerous areas in Tripoli, Brak Al Shaati and in the eastern cities of Shahat, Sousa and Benghazi. Participants were informed about the purpose of the survey and consent was obtained before interviews. Data collection adhered to ethical considerations, including ensuring confidentiality and sensitivity to cultural contexts and the potential trauma experienced by participants.

¹ International Organization for Migration (IOM). "Sudan Crisis Regional Response Situation Update 60." October 16, 2024.

INTRODUCTION

The data analysis process included both quantitative and qualitative methods. Descriptive statistics were applied to summarize demographic profiles and identify common trends. Thematic analysis was used to analyze qualitative responses, identifying key themes related to vulnerabilities and challenges.

Limitations

The survey results reflect the experiences and needs of Sudanese households within the geographic reach of IRC's operations. This focus may limit the generalizability of findings to other regions where IRC's presence is limited or absent. The sample size, while sufficient for qualitative insights, may not fully capture the experiences of all newly arrived Sudanese refugees across Libya. Therefore, the findings should be interpreted in light of the operational scope and geographic focus of the assessment. Nonetheless, the assessment offers valuable insights into the needs and challenges of Sudanese refugees in the surveyed areas, providing a foundation for targeted program development and policy advocacy.



DEMOGRAPHICS

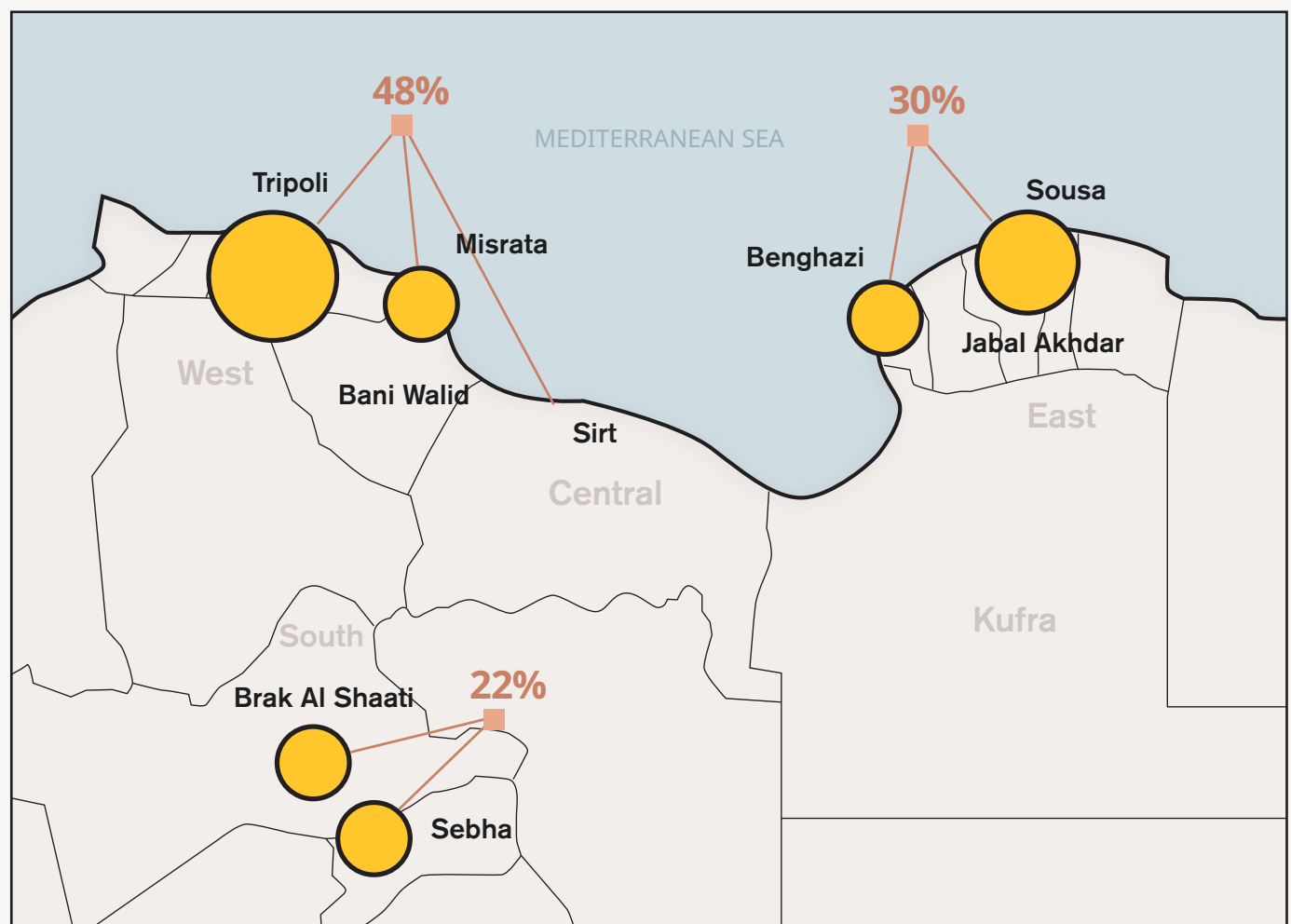
A total of 274 households were surveyed - most respondents (44%) are concentrated in Western Libya, with 42% residing in the larger Tripoli area and 2% in other Western regions. Eastern Libya accounts for 30% of the surveyed population, while 22% reside in the Southern region, including areas like Sebha and Brak Alshati. The Central region, including cities like Misurata and Sirte, represents the smallest surveyed group at 4%. Due to the small percentage of Central region and similar experiences, data for the West and Central will be combined moving forward.

The age distribution is predominantly adult, with 93% of respondents aged 18-59, 4% being elderly (60+ years), and 3% minors (12-17 years).

A notable gender disparity exists, with 70% of respondents being women and 30% being men, which may influence their specific needs, especially in terms of healthcare and protection. This is also due to the fact that females are the largest beneficiary for the IRC.

In terms of marital and family status, 77% of respondents are married, with 56% of this group having children, while 23% are single. Most respondents (73%) currently live with their spouse and children, suggesting a family-oriented household structure. Our teams on the ground have also noted that many families pre-existing ties to Libya, either through Sudanese diaspora in Libya or Libyan families. A further 17% reside with other relatives, while 10% live alone.

Graph 1: Location of surveyed households by region.

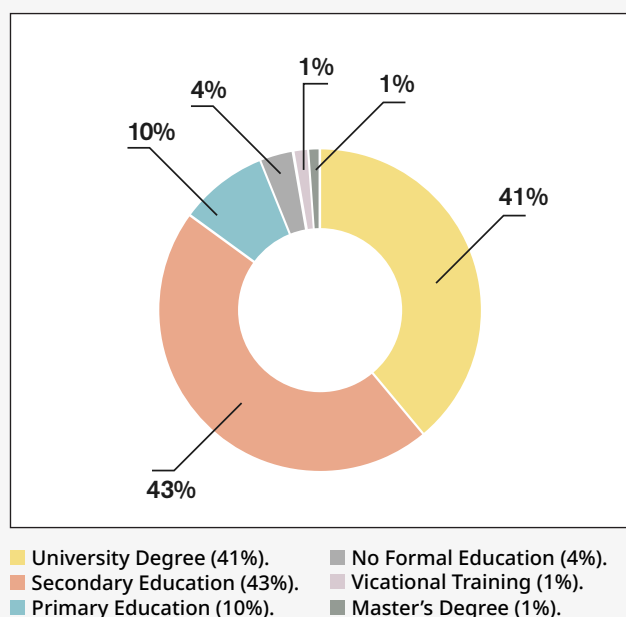


● Study area. ■ Surveys allocation per region.

MOVEMENT AND FUTURE PLANS

About 25% live with extended family members such as parents, cousins, distant family members who they have travelled with, reflecting the importance of broader family networks in supporting livelihoods.

Graph 2: Education levels among respondents .



Regarding education, 43% of respondents have completed secondary education, and 42% are university graduates, including 1% with a Master's degree. Meanwhile, 10% have only attained primary education, and 4% lack formal education, which could limit their access to information and opportunities.

This educational background suggests a relatively educated population, with many having the potential for skilled employment, though access to job opportunities remain a significant challenge.

Background

The movement of the Sudanese to Libya is largely driven by conflict, with an overwhelming 89% of respondents citing insecurity and violence as their primary reason for leaving Sudan.

A much smaller proportion — 5% — reported employment opportunities as the reason for their movement, indicating that while economic factors are significant, they are not the predominant push factor for most respondents.

Additionally, 3% indicated they left neighboring countries, such as Chad or Egypt, due to poor conditions suggesting that adverse circumstances in transit countries can also influence migration patterns. Family reunification and nutrition challenges were less common factors, with only 1% of respondents citing these as reasons for leaving.

Migration Routes and Entry Points

The majority of respondents (86%) reported entering Libya through the border regions near Alkufra, located at the triangular borders – known as 'Al Mosalas' – connecting Libya with Sudan and Egypt on one side, and the Libya with Sudan and Chad on another. Of those entering through this region, 69% crossed directly from Sudan into Libya, while the remaining respondents first traveled through Chad (12%) or Egypt (5%) before entering Libya through the same triangular border. This indirect route, involving multiple border crossings, significantly increased the danger and complexity of their journey. This also highlights Alkufra's importance as a primary entry point for people on the move.

Other routes include Southern routes through Chad (19%) transiting through Sebha, Gatroun and/or Um Alaranib before moving northwards. A smaller 10% entered from Egypt, 7% of whom arrived through the Imsaad northern border. A very small proportion, 1%, arrived through Tripoli airport, which is likely related to specific cases, such as those with more resources or different legal statuses.

Key Transit Cities

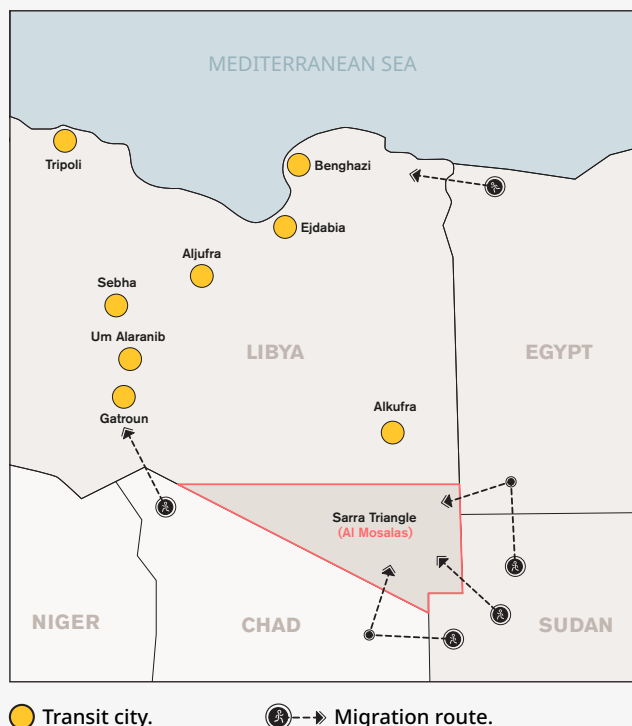
Key transit cities play a vital role in the migration journey for Sudanese households traveling to Libya. Ajdabiya stands out as the most frequently mentioned city, serving as a crucial crossing point that connects Alkufra to all major urban centers, while also facilitating movement between the eastern and Western regions as well as the southern parts of Libya.

Alkufra is another significant transit city, recognized both as an entry point and a transit hub. People on the move typically pass through Alkufra before continuing their journey to major destinations such as Tripoli and

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Benghazi. While they navigate this route, cities like Sirte, Bani Walid, and Misurata in the West; and Almarj, Albayda and Tobruk in the east, come into view, however, few appear to linger in these urban areas for extended periods.

Graph 3: Map showing key transit cities and migration routes.



Additionally, Aljufra serves as an important transit city for those journeying toward the Western and southern regions, such as Brak Al Shaati and Sebha. Cities like Sebha and Um Alaranib continue to be significant transit points.

Future Intentions

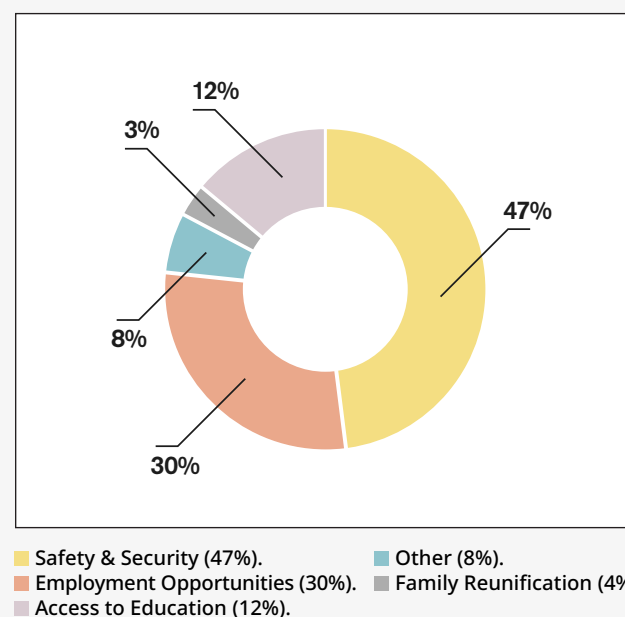
When it comes to future intentions, a mere 14% of respondents express a desire to remain in Libya, revealing significant dissatisfaction with current living conditions and uncertain prospects. A considerable 44% intend to leave, seeking better opportunities and circumstances outside Libya, while 42% remain undecided about their futures.

The factors influencing their decisions are multifaceted, with 47% of respondents citing safety as a primary concern, followed closely by employment (30%) and access to education (12%).

Family reunification is a priority for only 3% of respondents, while 8% cite other reasons, that include high rental prices, the desire to return home when conditions improve, and negative experiences in Libya.

Overall, the interplay of safety, economic opportunity, and educational access significantly shapes the migration patterns and future intentions of Sudanese in Libya – and these three elements resurface often in different parts of the report below.

Graph 4: Factors influencing the respondents' migration decision.



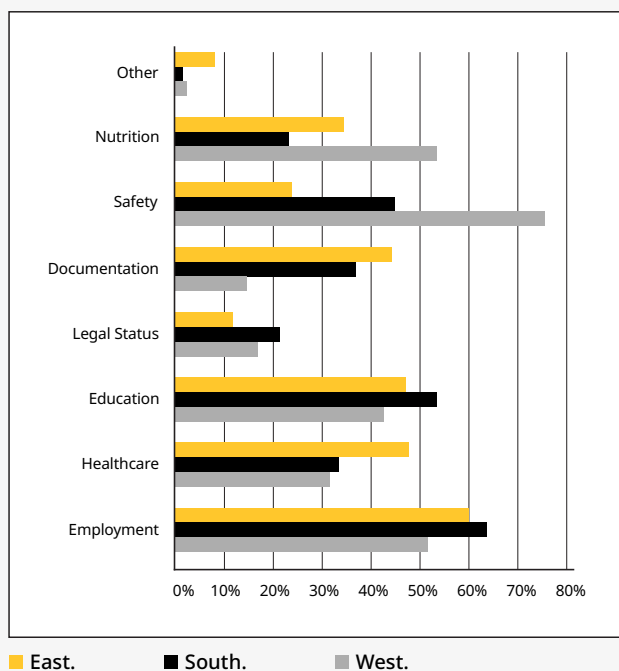
TOP CHALLENGES AND NEEDS

Interviewed households were asked to identify their top three challenges and needs in Libya. Challenges included difficulties they encounter in their journey and in the communities in which they live, such as legal barriers, social isolation. These challenges often compound other issues discussed below – such as access to education, health and protection. Households expressed the need for support in areas such as food security and legal assistance.

Top Challenges

The households interviewed have identified employment (56%), security (50%) and education (46%) as their top challenges in Libya. However, these differ from one region to another. In the West (including central cities of Misurata and Sirte), the top challenge was safety identified by 76% of respondents, followed by nutrition (55%) and employment (53%). In the East, safety was identified by much less respondents at 23%, while the top challenges are employment (60%), followed by healthcare (47%) and education (47%). Similarly, in the South, access to employment (66%) and education (56%) are among the top three challenges, followed by safety (44%).

Graph 5: Top challenges selected by respondents



While employment remains a common challenge across the three regions, the results outline a better security situation for newly arrived Sudanese refugees in the East and South, while

issues of legal status and documentation are less common in the West. The availability of UNHCR registration in the West helps in ensuring refugees have basic legal protection.

Understanding Documentation Challenges

Legal status and documentation are recurring themes in this report, and it is important to understand the context. Many Sudanese refugees have escaped war without bringing their documentation – such as passport, health reports, school reports etc, and therefore, have no proof of their previous lives, which is necessary to access services, continue education and potentially regularize their status in Libya. In collaboration with the Sudanese Embassy, the Libyan authorities in Alkufra have tried to create a system of recognition and registration that enables them to register Sudanese. Sudanese adults undergo medical checkups and are issued a health certificate which provides them with basic legal recognition.

However, documentation such as health reports, schools reports need to be recognized and stamped by the Sudanese Embassy to be accepted by the Libyan authorities. The Sudanese Embassy has also started issuing passports to those with valid documentation. However, fees are reportedly very high (as high as approximately 200USD) and despite a small number possessing the required documentation, there are also significant delays. Furthermore, refugees who are considered to be from families and tribes who are opposing the government, might find it difficult to access these services.

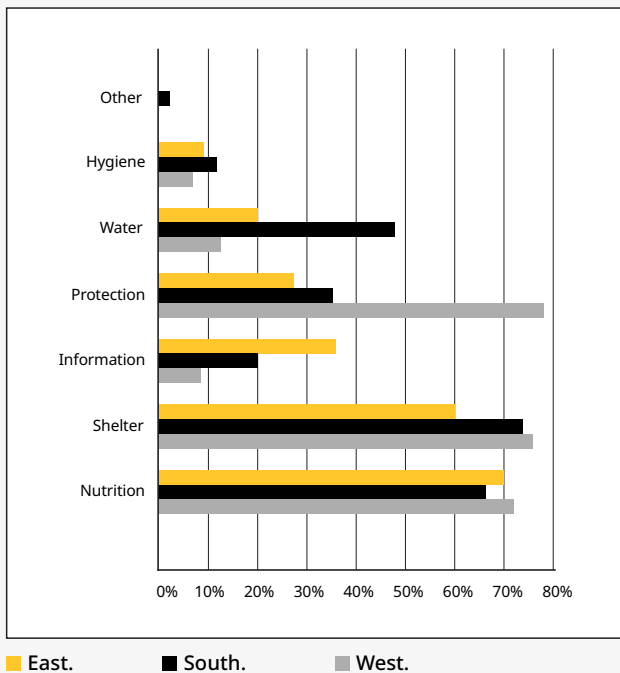
Another issue is that refugees who are in contact with the embassy are at risk of forfeiting their right to apply for asylum with UNCHR. Contact may be perceived as having protection or support from their home country and therefore, not in need of international protection. Furthermore, UNHCR registration does not translate into protection and does not necessarily support with their access to services in Libya. Libyan authorities do not recognize refugee status and therefore, UNCHR registration papers do not support when accessing services. Therefore, many Sudanese refugees remain in a state of legal limbo, having to make difficult decisions regarding their status.

TOP CHALLENGES AND NEEDS

Most Urgent Needs

Sudanese households interviewed by IRC in Libya face a range of critical needs, with shelter (71%), nutrition (70%), and protection (50%) emerging as the most pressing priority needs. These needs vary significantly across different regions.

Graph 6: Most urgent needs selected by respondents.



Protection needs are as high as 75% in the Western region, while relatively low in the East (26%) and South (34%). Restrictions on movement, checkpoints, difficulty to obtain paperwork to allow for free movement – are all issues that affect the large number of newly arrived Sudanese refugees who are in Tripoli. While many head to the West to register at UNHCR, the IRC team has also identified long waiting timeframes for registration at the UNHCR. Without registration, they are not eligible to access services provided by the UNHCR at the CDC and other areas.

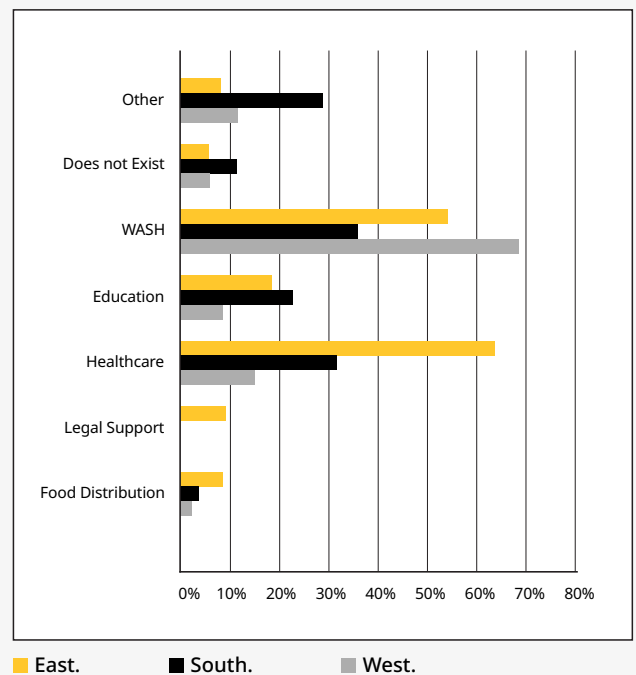
Nutrition and shelter are equally recognized as urgent needs in the three regions, while respondents living in the South have identified an urgent need for water (48%), significantly higher than in the other regions. Need for information in the East (33%) is evident, which is much higher than in the West (6%). UNHCR's presence in the West helps in accessing information – furthermore, a larger NGO presence in the West

allows for a more informed community of migrants and refugees. As will be reflected later in the assessment findings, stronger community ties in the West also supports in sharing information within the community.

Fulfilling Basic Needs Through the Public Sector

To fulfill their basic needs, newly arrived Sudanese are resorting to the public sector and NGOs. Accessing essential services in the public sector is an ongoing struggle outlined by interviewed households. However, public services play a critical role in the Sudanese community's livelihood, with 58% of families accessing WASH services through these institutions, making it the most widely received form of support. Public healthcare services are accessed by 35% of respondents, while public schools are accessed by 16% of households. However, access to legal assistance – including getting paperwork or issuing residence cards – remains minimal, with only 4% of families receiving this support. A concerning 7% of respondents report that they do not receive any form of support from public services, indicating gaps in the public support system.

Graph 7: Respondents' access to government services



TOP CHALLENGES AND NEEDS

WASH services are most common in the West (68% reported they received WASH services from the government), followed by healthcare (16%). In the East, access to public healthcare is the highest at 64%, followed by WASH (54%). In the South, percentages are relatively low across sectors, with WASH (57%) and healthcare (35%) being the highest. Given the legal landscape in Libya, legal support is minimal in all areas with only 9% in the East reporting access to legal support. Eastern authorities have been regularizing refugees in Alkufra through issuing health cards valid for 6 months. Access to public schooling is also low throughout all regions – barriers are explored in the dedicated section on education.

NGOs' Assistance and Needs Gaps

NGOs provide vital assistance, complimenting and filling the gaps left by public services. Whilst 41% stated that they have not received NGO support, 23% have been provided with non-food items (NFIs) and 22% benefited from health services provided by NGOs, 12% identified 'other' services. Additionally, 6% of families have received cash-based assistance.

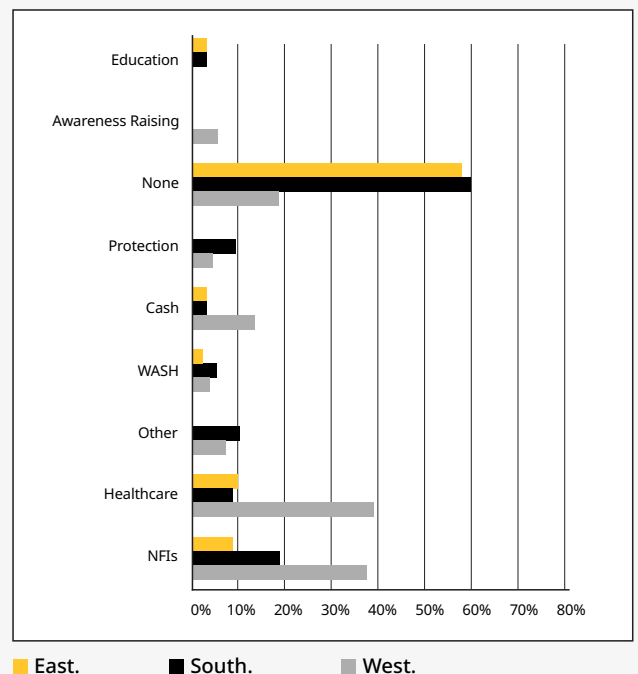
Understanding Cash-based assistance Challenges

Cash-based assistance in Libya faces significant logistical challenges due to ongoing banking and financial liquidity issues, which complicate the ability of NGOs to open and manage bank accounts. In August 2023, the IRC conducted a cash feasibility study to better understand these challenges and identify potential pathways for effective assistance. Whilst difficulties remain, mitigation measures include partnerships with local stakeholders for alternative cash distribution methods, such as direct cash transfers or community-based systems.

Given the limited NGO presence in the South and East, most respondents in these regions have indicated that they have not received any services from NGOs, 61% in the South and 58% in the East – compared to only 18% in the West. In the West, 39% of Sudanese families have

accessed healthcare through NGO medical teams and 37% were provided with NFIs. While cash assistance is minimal in other regions, 13% of the surveyed families in the West have indicated that they have received cash assistance. Despite the large need for protection services, access to these services remains very low, alongside education services. While WASH services by NGOs remain low, the high percentage of access through public institutions and infrastructure could mean less reliance on NGOs.

Graph 8: Respondents' access to NGO services



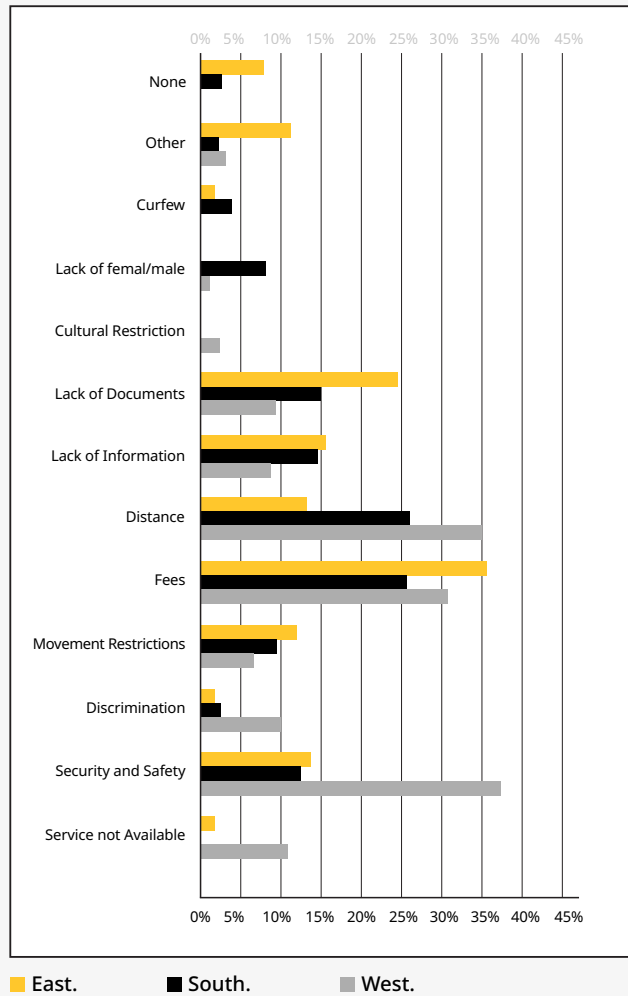
Barriers to Meeting Basic Needs

Several barriers hinder these families' ability to meet their basic needs and access basic services, both in the public sector and through NGOs.

Fees and economic barriers are the most common challenge to accessing basic needs, with 35% of families struggling to meet basic needs due to a lack of money. This includes expenses such as transportation to the service, medical tests and examinations, fees to issue documentation required for schools. Lack of money also limits their ability to secure essentials like food and rent – hence why nutrition and shelter are two of the most urgent needs identified.

TOP CHALLENGES AND NEEDS

Graph 9: Key obstacles to accessing services identified by respondents



Security concerns are another barrier to access basic needs – with 26% of respondents identifying safety and security as a concern and 9% highlighting that restrictions on movement limit their ability to purchase necessities. 29% have also identified distance to access services as a barrier to them accessing basic services. Mirroring findings from previous sections, safety and security is the most common barrier in the West (42%) while less significant in the East (14%) and South(13%), while distance is a common barrier for all three regions. Discrimination is also experienced by 10% of the respondents in the West.

Lack of documentation and legal status has surfaced throughout the survey as a key barrier, particularly for families with children. This is notable in the East where 25% of respondents have outlined the issue, as well as 15% in the South. This lack of documentation complicates access to education, employment, and stable legal status, making it harder for families to establish a sense of security.

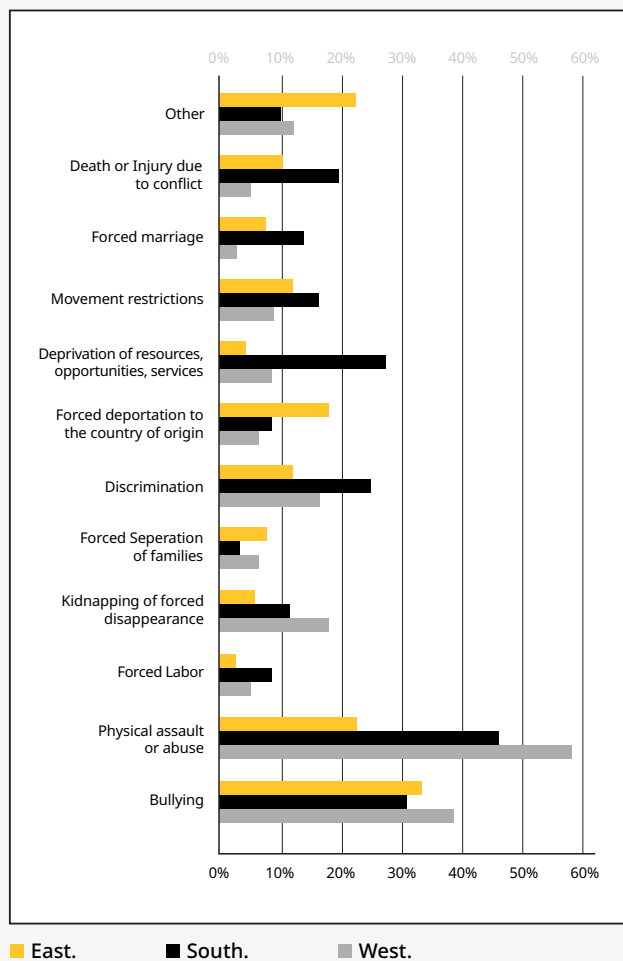
Other barriers include lack of information (13%) – mostly prevalent in the East and South and service not being available which is at 11% in the West.

PROTECTION AND SAFETY

Protection remains a key challenge for many respondents, with 50% highlighting safety issues as one of the top three challenges, and 50% identifying protection as one of the most urgent needs as well. Protection needs are more prevalent in the Western region but remain a concern in the east and south.

These concerns reflect broader vulnerabilities within the migrant and refugee community in Libya, especially regarding physical safety, access to legal documentation, and exposure to risks such as violence and exploitation.

Graph 10: Main concerns for women & girls identified by respondents

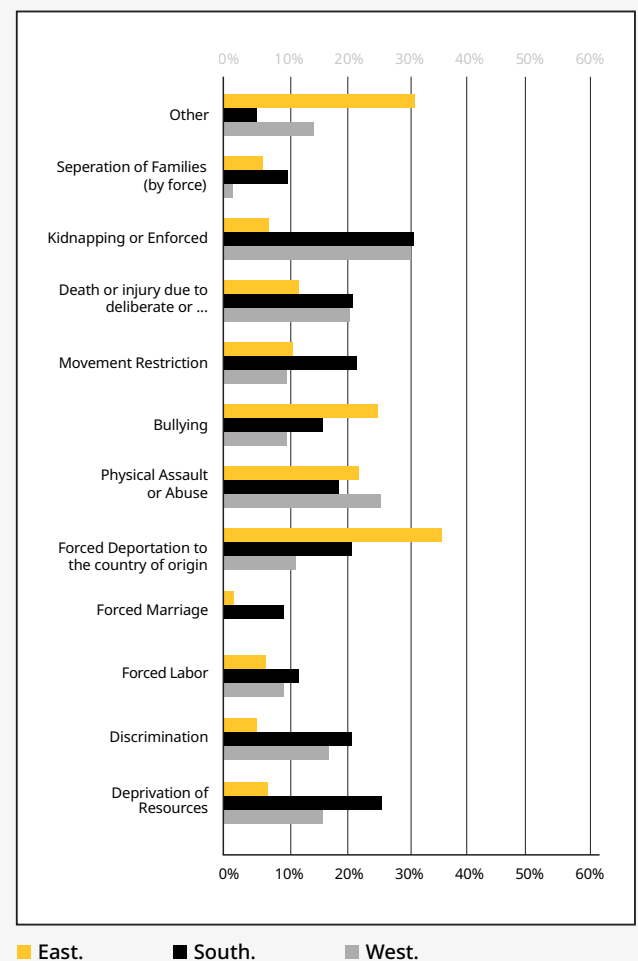


Among the top safety concerns for women and girls, physical assault or abuse is the most frequently mentioned (44%), followed by bullying (35%) and discrimination (16%). Women and girls face heightened vulnerability to violence, harassment, and social intimidation, which often hinder their access to services and employment opportunities. Death or injury is a concern for women living in the South (20%) and

West (13%) but much less in the East (6%). Other concerns for women and girls include kidnapping or forced disappearance (13%), restrictions on movement (11%), and forced marriage (6%).

Women in the West have more concerns regarding their physical safety such as physical violence, kidnapping or forced disappearance in comparison to other regions. In the South, women fear the deprivation of resources, opportunities, and services and are more susceptible to discrimination and forced marriage. In the East, where state-organized deportations are more frequent, women fear deportation (20%) and have other fears such as gender-based violence and harassment from their landlord.

Graph 11: Main concerns for men & boys identified by respondents



Men and boys also face significant protection risks, though their concerns differ slightly from those of women. Physical assault is a major issue (32%), as well as kidnapping or forced

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disappearance (23%), which is notably higher than for women (which is at 13%). Men are also concerned about conflict-related injuries or death (18%), forced deportation (20%), and forced labor (8%). These concerns highlight the impact of ongoing instability in Libya, as well as challenges related to legal status, which can exacerbate vulnerabilities to forced displacement and exploitation.

Men in the West are primarily concerned with physical assault or violence (46%), kidnapping (30%) while conflict-related deaths (21%) are also of concern. In the South, men are concerned about similar issues, alongside discrimination (21%) and deprivation of resources (26%). Both men in the South and East are concerned with forced deportation with 36% in the east and 21% in the south. Forced deportation has been a common concern for newly arrived Sudanese families in the East, where state-sponsored deportation is frequent. Bullying is another common concern in all three regions, denoting higher levels of social exclusion, verbal harassment and intimidation. 'Other' concerns mentioned by men in the East include forced recruitment to armed forces and inability to work.

“

The situation of [unaccompanied and separated children] is difficult; they've lost their families, they need nutrition, clothing, and psychological support - displacement has worsened their mental health.

—Survey respondent

Rescue.org 

Unaccompanied and Separated Children Vulnerabilities

The presence of unaccompanied and separated children (UASC) in Libya is another critical protection issue. Around 29% of respondents reported the presence of UASC in their communities. The highest concentration of UASC is reported in the Tripoli and Misurata areas, where 45% of respondents noted their presence. In contrast, the Eastern regions, where families have tended to travel together, reported the lowest percentage of UASC (11%), while the South reported 19%.

According to community members, UASC children face a range of risks, including fear and anxiety (15%), likely stemming from their precarious living situations and lack of support systems. Additional challenges include malnutrition (14%), homelessness (11%), lack of access to healthcare (11%), and experiences of emotional distress (9%). There are also reports of physical abuse (8%), neglect (5%), and a fear of trafficking or kidnapping (4%). These findings underscore the urgent need for child protection services, including safe shelter, psychosocial support, and efforts to prevent exploitation and trafficking.

Access to Community Support Networks

Community support networks for Sudanese refugees are limited, with only 21% of respondents reporting the presence of such

networks in their area. Support is most commonly found in the West (29%), where Sudanese communities are much more established and numbers are higher, while it is less available in the East (16%) and the South (11%). For those who do have access, support often involves temporary housing (41%), food assistance (17%), and psychological support (17%). Additionally, some respondents report receiving assistance with finding work (8%) or accessing legal support (1%).

PROTECTION AND SAFETY

Documentation and Legal Status

Challenges related to documentation and legal status compound the protection risks for many refugees. Libya is not a signatory to the 1951 convention on asylum and does not provide asylum to refugees. Whilst the Libyan state has proposed some regularization pathways to getting residence and paperwork, it often requires paperwork which is not readily available for people on the move. In the case of Sudanese refugees, the Libyan government in Alkufra has kickstarted a system whereby refugees are provided with health certificates – which allows them to live in the area freely, valid for 6 months. However, when travelling West towards Tripoli, these papers are not recognised and refugees are stopped at checkpoints.

Legal challenges were and remain a major issue for Sudanese refugees. 27% of respondents reported difficulties in accessing necessary documents, which are crucial for obtaining services, securing employment, and ensuring legal residency in Libya. This lack of documentation can leave individuals, especially those who are unaccompanied or in precarious situations, vulnerable to exploitation and abuse. Furthermore, 15% of respondents cited legal status as a pressing concern, which directly affects their ability to reside and work legally in Libya.

Information Gaps

A significant part of the protection challenges faced by Sudanese households in Libya is linked to critical information gaps, which hinder their ability to navigate their circumstances and access available resources. Lack of information was highlighted as an urgent need by 18% of respondents, especially in the eastern (33%) and southern (20%) regions. Key areas where families report a lack of information include safety and security (27%), knowledge of their rights (25%), awareness of services and aid options (22%), access pathways to services (16%), and the ability to make informed decisions (6%). These gaps relate not only to the availability of services but also to the understanding and trust needed to access them effectively.



Chess Champion, Refugee, Survivor.

How Najwa Made Her Move
From Sudan to Libya

Rescue.org 

Najwa Mohamed is a 42-year-old mother and professional chess player, currently living with her husband and five children in Sousa, a small city in northeastern Libya, overlooking the Mediterranean Sea. In January 2024, Najwa and her family were forced to flee their hometown in Sudan due to conflict.

Five months pregnant at the time, Najwa left everything behind and travelled by land with her family to seek refuge in Libya. Jammed with 26 other people in a car, Najwa's journey to safety was full of danger, but the thought of her children's future gave her the strength to persevere. Sixteen days later, Najwa arrived with her family in Sousa, hoping to start a new life.

The International Rescue Committee (IRC) provided essential protection services to Najwa and her family, including dignity and hygiene items, blankets, beds, heaters, and food items. These items helped the family settle down and create a sense of normalcy in their new home.

Today, Najwa's home is considered a safe space for other Sudanese women in the area. The IRC's Women Protection and Empowerment team organizes psychosocial support and recreational activities at Najwa's home, providing a much-needed outlet for the women to connect, share experiences, and build resilience. These gatherings have helped the women cope with their trauma and find support in a new and unfamiliar environment.

Despite the challenges she has faced, Najwa remains passionate about chess and dreams of representing Sudan once again in an official tournament. Although she received an invitation to play in Hungary this year, she was unable to obtain a visa due to the loss of her documentation papers during her escape from Sudan.

SHELTER AND LIVING CONDITIONS

Current Residence and Living Arrangements

The majority of interviewed Sudanese households (67%) rely on rental accommodation. This reliance is a major source of economic pressure, particularly as many of these households have unstable or informal income sources. Another 21% live with family or friends, showing the importance of social networks in providing housing support. However, these arrangements often lead to other challenges, such as overcrowding and a dependency on others to meet basic needs.



We fear being subjected to abuse and harassment by the landlord.

—Female survey respondent

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A smaller percentage of respondents (5%) live at their place of work. This often means residing in informal or precarious conditions, which can expose individuals to vulnerabilities, including exploitation. An additional 4% live in the open on farmland, primarily around Tripoli and in southern regions like Sebha and Brak Alshati, where housing options are more makeshift and often lack basic amenities. Another 3% of households reside in other forms of shelter, including a respondent who mentioned homelessness, another who mentioned UNHCR-supported shelters. Notably, shelter emerged as an urgent need for 20% of respondents, ranking as the third most urgent concern after nutrition and protection. This highlights the need for affordable housing for those struggling to maintain stability in their living arrangements.

Cost of Housing

The financial burden of housing is a key challenge for many newly arrived Sudanese households in Libya, with the average monthly rent paid being 649 LYD (approx. 130 USD). Average income in Libya for refugees and

migrants were last reported by IOM in 2023² as 980 LYD (approx. 200 USD). Although more recent data is needed for a fair assessment, and households could have more than one breadwinner, it is reasonable to assume that Sudanese refugees could be paying more than 50% of their income in rental expenses. Nearly half of the households (49%) pay more than 500 LYD (approx. 100 USD), suggesting that a significant proportion of these refugees are dealing with relatively high housing costs. 26% pay exactly 500 LYD (approx. 100 USD), while the remaining 25% manage to secure accommodations at rates below this amount. This indicates that while some households can find relatively affordable housing, the majority (more than 75%) face substantial financial pressures due to rent.

There are notable differences in rent costs across Libya, reflecting regional disparities in living costs. Al Bayda has the highest average rent, with households paying around 1,013.33 LYD (approx. 210 USD) per month. This suggests a higher cost of living or a more competitive rental market in the city. It is also noteworthy that most surveyed households in Al Bayda include families, as opposed to more single respondents in the Western region. Similarly, Misurata and Benghazi also see elevated rental prices, with average rates exceeding 900 LYD (approx. 185 USD). In contrast, the Western cities of Tripoli, Zawiya, and Janzour, where larger scale makeshift accommodation is more available, offer more affordable rental options, averaging around 500 LYD (approx. 100 USD) per month. In the South, prices averaged 545 LYD (approx. 110 USD). This affordability could make these areas more accessible for those who are seeking accommodation but have limited financial means.

High reliance on rental accommodation drives up rent, especially in areas not traditionally a hub for migrants and refugees, and where mass housing arrangements are not available. This can also lead to tensions between refugees and host communities where Libyans and non-Libyans are in effect competing with each other for limited rental resources. This results in issues such as harassment, bullying and discrimination, as was highlighted in the previous section on security concerns.

² International Organization for Migration (IOM). "Displacement Tracking Matrix Libya's Migrant Report round 48 May-June, 2023.

HEALTH AND ACCESS TO HEALTHCARE

Access to Healthcare Services

Libyan law stipulates that primary healthcare is free and accessible for all. However, Primary health care centers often lack integrated basic services due to shortages of medical personnel, laboratory services, and essential medicines and supplies. This results in diminished service quality and availability, compounded by the deteriorating infrastructure of many health facilities that require ongoing maintenance. Since the political changes and wars that have deteriorated health services in the country, both Libyans and migrants increasingly turn to the private sector for medical care, particularly in emergencies and maternity services.

Sudanese refugees face a variety of challenges accessing health services. A majority of respondents (69%) reported that they have health centers within a half-hour walking distance. An additional 24% can reach a health center within an hour, though a small proportion (5%) must travel two hours or more for care. The percentages are similar across regions. Despite the relative proximity of healthcare facilities, only 25% of respondents have accessed public health centers. In contrast, 19% have turned to healthcare services provided by non-governmental organizations (NGOs).

Several barriers hinder access to public healthcare services. The most frequently cited challenges include fees (35%) . and distance (29%). 'Fees' include hidden costs such as medical consultations, investigations, medication and transportation. Distance concerns must be weighed with the 25% of respondents who cited security and safety as major obstacles. Long distances involve high transportation costs and potential risks from security checkpoints requiring identification and residency documents. Additional barriers include a lack of documentation (15%) and insufficient information about available services (13%). Addressing these issues is essential to improve healthcare access for refugees to enhance their overall well-being.

Nutrition and Health

Nutrition is closely linked to health outcomes. 70% of respondents have indicated nutrition as one of their primary needs, only second to shelter at 71%. Percentages are high in all regions, with a small increase in the West. 40% have also indicated that nutrition is a major challenge that affects their livelihood – with greater percentages in the West (55%) and lower in the South (25%) and 36% in the East. Poor nutrition can lead to various health problems, including malnutrition, weakened immune systems, and chronic illnesses. These issues are particularly concerning for vulnerable populations, such as UASC, where 14% of respondents report that they fear that UASC lack nutrition.

Lack of money due to high unemployment rates affects the ability of families to access adequate nutrition. A lack of adequate nutrition can exacerbate existing health issues and hinder recovery from illness, making it a critical area of focus for improving overall health.



EDUCATION

Access to education was identified by 46% of households as the second top challenge experienced while in Libya, following employment at 56%.

Lost Educational Opportunities

Before leaving Sudan, 18% of those interviewed were students, with many enrolled in primary, secondary and tertiary education. However, upon arriving in Libya, only 2% have managed to continue their studies. Many who were unable to resume their education have had to shift to daily labor or are currently unemployed and searching for job opportunities. This situation underscores the difficult choices Sudanese students face—balancing the need to support their families with their desire to pursue education. Further compounded by limited access to educational resources for Sudanese refugees in Libya. To address this, flexible learning opportunities are crucial.

Access to Education for Children

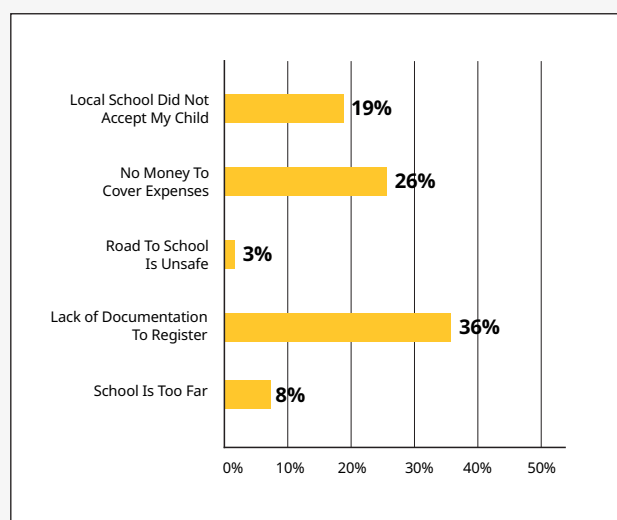
The Libyan authorities have permitted Sudanese children to attend schools, waiving certain enrollment procedures to facilitate their access. This initiative aims to support the growing number of Sudanese migrants and refugees in Libya, particularly following the recent influx due to the ongoing conflict in Sudan.³

Access to education is a significant challenge for Sudanese refugee households in Libya, with only 21% of families with children reporting that their children are currently enrolled in school. This means that 79% of families face barriers to education access, even though the availability of schools in the neighborhood is not necessarily the primary issue. In fact, 74% of households have indicated that schools are within a half-hour walk from their residence, and 20% say schools are within an hour's walk. These challenges are consistent across all regions, suggesting systemic issues that limit school attendance among Sudanese children.

Key barriers to education include the lack of required paperwork, which affects 36% of families. Without the necessary legal documents: valid passport, previous school records – all stamped by the Sudanese Embassy in Libya – many children are unable to register for local schools, thus remaining excluded from

formal education. Another major challenge is the cost of schooling, with 26% of respondents citing financial constraints as a reason for their children not attending school. While in theory public schools are free of charge for Sudanese refugees, other expenses include stationery, transportation costs, uniforms, books and others. For those turned away from public schools, high fees for private schools are a major concern.

Graph 12: Barrier to access education for respondents with children



Additionally, 19% of respondents report that local schools do not accept their children, which may reflect discriminatory practices or capacity issues in Libyan schools. It is noted by the IRC team that schools are often overcrowded, and access is an issue for Libyan students as well. It is for this reason that many Sudanese are turned away by local schools, and Libyan students are prioritized.

Only 12% of total respondents indicated that their family had received education services from public institutions. Families have also resorted to other institutions for education – this could include private institutions such as the private Sudanese schools.

Additional barriers include distance with 8% of families stating that schools are too far from their place of residence, making daily attendance difficult. 3% of respondents also cited the safety of the route to school as a reason for their children's non-attendance – with security a recurring concern affecting access to education, employment and health.

³ International Organization for Migration (IOM). "Response to the Sudan Emergency April 2023 to December, 2024.

EDUCATION

Education as a Migration Factor

Access to education also plays a role in families' decisions about whether to stay in Libya or seek opportunities elsewhere. While 47% of respondents identify safety as the primary factor influencing their migration intentions, 13% cite access to education as a critical consideration. This underscores the importance of educational opportunities not only for immediate well-being but also as a factor in long-term decision-making for Sudanese refugees.

“

We have been in contact with the education monitoring offices, but we couldn't obtain books because most of the students lack their legal documentation, including residency permits.

—Head of a private Sudanese school in Libya, offering a Libyan curriculum

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Sudanese Schools – Opportunity for Improved Access

Several private Sudanese schools have opened in various areas of Libya, including Misurata, Tripoli, and Alkufra. Some of these schools have been established for a longer period and are accredited by both Sudanese and Libyan authorities, offering the Sudanese and/or Libyan curriculum. The more recently opened schools are a response to the growing demand due to an increasing number of Sudanese refugees, with staff members often being refugee educators who have fled the war and found safety in Libya. While these schools provide an opportunity to improve access to education for newly arrived communities, the varying fees often force Sudanese parents to prioritize which of their children can attend school.



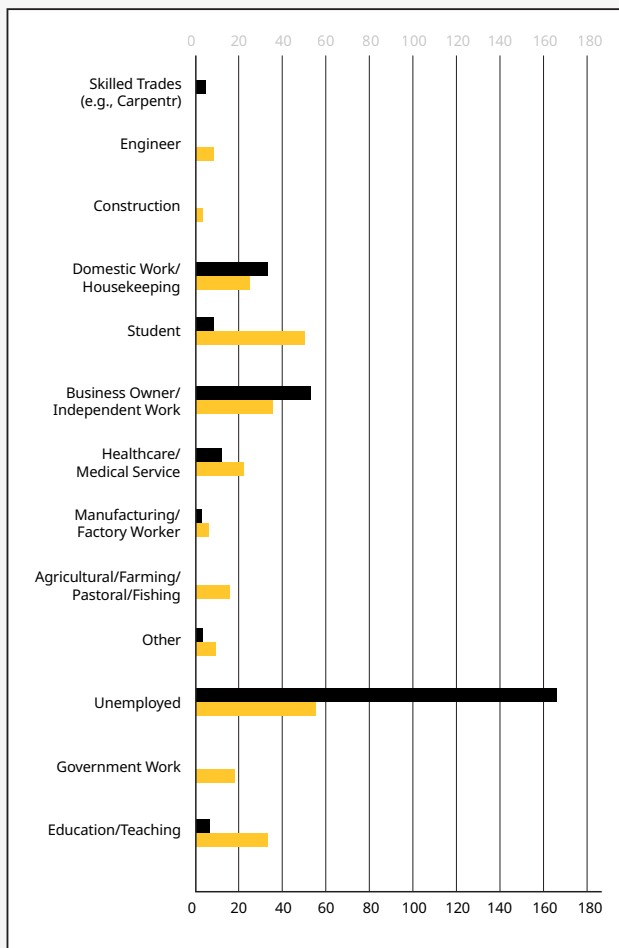
Photo: Sudanese children attending psychosocial support recreational activities at the IRC's safe space in Tripoli, Libya.

SOCIO-ECONOMIC CONDITIONS AND EMPLOYMENT

Economic Pressures and Employment Challenges

Economic pressures are a major concern for Sudanese refugees in Libya. With 56% of respondents identifying employment as a critical challenge, access to stable work remains a significant barrier to achieving a secure livelihood. The displacement caused by conflict in Sudan has left many without a steady source of income. Before the crisis, many had diverse occupations, including roles in freelancing and business ownership (14%), education (12%), health work (8%), and domestic work (8%). 42% of respondents were professional workers, including government workers, healthcare workers, teachers and engineers.

Graph 13: Jobs of respondents when they were in Sudan vs their current jobs in Libya



■ Job In Sudan. ■ Job In Libya.

However, access to stable jobs in Libya has severely limited opportunities, leading to a drastic increase in unemployment among the surveyed population, where currently 60% of

respondents are without work. This must be viewed in light of the issues of legal status – refugees cannot access stable work if they do not have the relevant paperwork and do not have clear paths to regularise their status and apply for residence and work permits.

For those who have managed to secure some form of employment, the type of work conducted has significantly changed. As opposed to the professional work conducted in Sudan, many are now engaged in independent work or daily wage labor (18%), which often offers little stability or job security. The percentage of those working in domestic jobs has decreased slightly to 11% from 8%, while health and education roles have become less common, reflecting limited opportunities in these sectors. Only 2% of respondents continue to pursue education, showing a marked decline in prospects for those who were previously students.

Existing communities of migrants and refugees can be important to support newcomers finding jobs. However, only 21% of respondents reported the presence of pre-existing Sudanese support networks in their cities and only 8% who have received support in finding jobs from their communities. This means that many newcomers might feel isolated.

“ We arrived in Libya shattered by what we've endured in Sudan and on the road. We were once teachers, doctors, professionals – and now we must start over from nothing”

—Female respondent

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SOCIO-ECONOMIC CONDITIONS AND EMPLOYMENT

It is noteworthy to mention that 82% of households identified lack of money as a major barrier to meeting their basic needs, either due to low wages, unstable employment or being unemployed. Addressing the economic needs of Sudanese refugees requires targeted interventions to improve access to stable employment opportunities, as well as measures to ensure fair wages and access to basic services, enabling families to better meet their everyday needs.

The Role of Job Opportunities in Migration Decisions

Safety and employment opportunities are key factors influencing the decision-making of Sudanese in Libya. Conflict in Sudan is the primary driver of movement, cited by 89% of respondents. Only 5% of respondents migrated in search of better job opportunities. However, in their decision to stay in Libya or seek opportunities in other countries, 30% cited employment as the main factor, second only to 47% of respondents who identified safety as their primary deciding factor. This shows that livelihoods is a key factor in decisions related to migration.

The intersection of freedom of movement challenges and access to economic opportunities is an important consideration.

When highlighting their main concerns in Libya, a significant number identified deprivation of resources, services and opportunities (including employment) as critical for men (16%) and women (11%).

Restriction on movement was identified by 12% of households as a key challenge. Obstacles to freedom of movement, such as checkpoints, administrative restrictions, lack of papers to move between cities are particularly prominent among respondents in Western Libya, where mobility restrictions are often more severe. Inability to move freely, reflects in lower chances to get employment – especially when the most common form of employment for migrants and refugees in Libya is daily work.

CONCLUSION: NEW APPROACHES NEEDED TO SUPPORT NEWLY ARRIVED SUDANESE IN LIBYA

The arrival of nearly 215,000 Sudanese refugees since April 2023 presents a challenge that requires a paradigm shift in how humanitarian support and public sector integration are approached in Libya. This situation demands comprehensive, multi-faceted strategies to address immediate humanitarian needs while laying the groundwork for sustainable, long-term solutions that benefit both the refugees and host communities. The assessment has highlighted the below:

Prioritizing Increased Funding and Access to Resources

Immediate funding is critical to support the urgent needs of Sudanese refugees, particularly in regions hosting families, unaccompanied minors, and transit cities. Enhanced funding will allow humanitarian actors to scale up their operations, ensure continuous food distribution, and decrease the risk of hunger and malnutrition. Establishing targeted nutritional programs, particularly in transit areas like Alkufra and other key entry points, would provide consistent support that prevents the exacerbation of vulnerabilities and promotes stability. Additionally, funding should prioritize programs that include the establishment of temporary shelters, child protection services, and essential educational resources.

Strengthening Public Systems Through HDP Approaches

This moment presents a critical Humanitarian-Development-Peace (HDP) nexus opportunity. The relative acceptance of Sudanese refugees within public sector services signals a shift that can be leveraged to strengthen systems and increase their capacity to manage future shocks to the system. Integrating humanitarian programming with development efforts can involve rehabilitating public health centers, expanding school capacities, and training public sector staff to respond effectively to the needs of a growing, diverse population. Such investments not only support refugees but also improve the quality of services for host communities, fostering social cohesion and reducing potential conflict.

Harnessing the Unique Skills of Newly Arrived Workers

A significant number of newly arrived Sudanese refugees are highly educated, with professional backgrounds in critical fields such as healthcare, education, financial services and engineering. This influx presents an opportunity to harness these skills to address gaps in Libya's public services. Innovative programs that fast-track the recognition of qualifications and provide tailored vocational training can help integrate these professionals into the workforce, benefiting both the refugees and Libyan society. Creating partnerships with local institutions, NGOs, and international organizations to develop skill-matching programs can accelerate economic contributions from refugees and support the broader goal of sustainable development.

Addressing the Needs of Women, Children, and Unaccompanied Minors

The refugee population includes a substantial number of women, children, and unaccompanied minors, who have specific vulnerabilities that must be urgently addressed. Programs focused on child protection, gender-based violence prevention, and comprehensive health services for women must be expanded. Implementing family-friendly spaces in community centers, as well as targeted mental health and psychosocial support (MHPSS) services, can enhance resilience among these groups. For unaccompanied minors, safe housing arrangements is essential to prevent exploitation and ensure they receive adequate care and protection.

Enhancing Collaborative Engagement with Authorities and the Sudanese Embassy

Effective engagement with Libyan authorities and the Sudanese Embassy is essential to streamline documentation processes, facilitate access to essential services, and establish legal protections. Collaborative task forces that include representatives from the government, NGOs, and the embassy can create coordinated responses that ensure efficient service delivery

CONCLUSION: NEW APPROACHES NEEDED TO SUPPORT NEWLY ARRIVED SUDANESE IN LIBYA

and protection. Advocacy for joint frameworks on refugee rights and responsibilities can also encourage policy changes that benefit all displaced populations in Libya. Furthermore, enhancing the Sudanese embassy's capacity to issue documentation and support education initiatives will be vital in reaching underserved refugee groups.

Innovative Solutions for Social Cohesion and Community Integration

To reduce instances of discrimination and social tension, targeted programs that promote cultural exchange and understanding are crucial. Organizing community events that celebrate the shared heritage between Sudanese and Libyan communities, similar to the successful initiative that IRC held at the Baity Centre in October 2024, can foster trust and integration. Supporting housing initiatives that prevent market disruptions and advocate for equitable rental practices can alleviate competition and promote harmonious living conditions. Additionally, creating mentorship programs where refugees partner with Libyan professionals can build networks of support and facilitate smoother transitions into local life.

Bridging Information Gaps and Expanding INGO Presence

Addressing the lack of reliable information and limited INGO presence in Eastern and Southern Libya is critical. Establishing information hubs that provide guidance on available services, legal assistance, and safety protocols can significantly improve refugees' access to support and reduce their risk of exploitation. These hubs can be complemented by digital platforms that disseminate verified information, provide updates on available aid, and connect refugees to service providers. Strengthening community liaison roles can create direct points of contact for refugees, ensuring timely assistance and building trust within communities.

Sustained Advocacy for Broader Refugee Protections

The current situation offers a unique advocacy platform to push for comprehensive policy reforms that improve conditions for all refugees in Libya. Highlighting the contributions, needs, and challenges faced by Sudanese refugees can galvanize support for policy changes that establish clearer rights, promote inclusive service delivery, and reinforce legal protections. Advocacy coalitions involving NGOs, INGOs, and local civil society actors can amplify these efforts, creating momentum for lasting change that benefits the entire displaced community.

In conclusion, the arrival of Sudanese refugees requires a shift towards more inclusive, tailored, and sustainable approaches. By increasing funding, leveraging refugees' skills, addressing specific vulnerabilities, and strengthening collaborations with authorities, Libya can respond effectively to the current humanitarian crisis while building a foundation for future resilience.

RECOMMENDATIONS

» General Recommendations to All Actors

1.1 Strengthen coordination amongst relevant stakeholders in Libya, and refugee and host communities

Enhance coordination among NGOs, UN agencies, and local actors to standardize protection services, reduce service overlap, and identify gaps.

Set up a coordination mechanism between humanitarian actors (NGOs, UN, iNGOs) and government authorities, especially the emergency committee, to identify and fill gaps in services.

Coordinate with different actors for a multi-sectorial needs assessment that would enable a more informed response. Coordinate closely with authorities in the process of conducting the assessment.

Support and work closely with Sudanese-led community organizations, networks, peer groups and support groups to foster networking, job support, social cohesion, community well-being and collective advocacy.

Engage with the Sudanese Embassy to support refugees with and streamline legal documentation processes and advocate for subsidy of documentation fees, and increased capacity to issue documentation.

» Recommendations to NGOs and UN

Protection

2.1 Expand and strengthen protection services

Increase the presence of NGO and UN protection actors in East and South Libya, where service access is limited and numbers of newly arrived refugees is increasing.

Conduct a CSO Mapping to explore new partners in the region who can provide the required support in increasing the presence for the response.

2.2 Awareness raising and information dissemination

To combat the lack of information, especially in the South and East, conduct targeted awareness

raising initiatives which provides concrete information on how refugees can access services and regularize their legal status – including who to speak to and how to connect with them.

Deploy community workers to assist newly arrived Sudanese refugees in their communities to support in accessing services and navigating local systems.

Update platforms like the Malomat online portal which contains an online service map and hotlines to provide accurate, current information about available services and resources (service map) – including information on specific services and policies related to Sudanese (eg. Exemption of Sudanese students from paying fees in tertiary education, vaccination campaigns for Sudanese students)

2.3 Establish targeted child protection programming

Given the presence of UASC, especially in the West, establish targeted child protection programs, with services like safe shelters, psychosocial support, educational opportunities, and family tracing.

2.4 Expand support and protection for women and girls

Prioritize protection programs for women and girls, addressing risks such as violence against women and girls (VAWG), physical assault, and forced marriage and provide services in transit cities where women and girls might be in increased exploitation in their journey.

Expand capacity of safe spaces for women and girls to be able to cater for growing refugee community, offering specialized services such as GBV case management (incl vulnerability in-kind support) and referrals, safety audits, life skills, structured PSS and vocational training.

Provide technical capacity-building opportunities for schools, CSOs, and community leaders through Training of Trainers on case management and structured psychosocial support (PSS) curricula for women and girls.

RECOMMENDATIONS

2.5 Scale up legal assistance to support with legal status

Expand the legal aid programming through setting up mobile legal clinics to help Sudanese refugees navigate documentation and registration processes, including applying for temporary IDs, work permits, residence permits, birth certificates, health certificates, marriage certificates and others.

Advocate with authorities for recognition of temporary documentation (e.g., temporary IDs and medical cards) issued by the authorities in Alkufra in other areas, that would allow refugees to access essential public services and travel between regions in a regular manner.

Advocate for more clarity from authorities in Alkufra on what happens after the 6 months validity of the temporary IDs and medical cards is over – and how they can be renewed in other areas outside Alkufra.

Education

3.1 Develop flexible educational opportunities

Develop alternative learning pathways (accelerated programs, evening/weekend classes) for young students who work to support their families to continue pursuing their education.

Implement technical and vocational training tailored to the local job market, focusing on high-demand fields like construction, agriculture, customer service, financial services, and health, as well as top up courses to support accreditation of certain vocations in Libya.

3.2 Improve access to education

Support families with children in school for school-related expenses, such as transportation, school supplies, uniforms, and textbooks. Distribute school kits to vulnerable families at the start of the school year.

Provide targeted support for school enrollment processes and assistance with obtaining necessary documentation to ensure that Sudanese children can access education.

Establish and support existing community learning centers/safe spaces (eg. Baiyy Centres) near Sudanese refugee communities, providing education support services such as non-formal education for out of school children, remedial classes, catch up classes and others.

Provide support to schools with high number of students suffering from overcrowding and lack of resources, to increase their capacity to accommodate students and improve quality – especially in the South.



Photo: Sudanese children attending psychosocial support recreational activities at the IRC's safe space in Tripoli, Libya.

3.3 Strengthen Sudanese-led educational institutions

Invest in Sudanese schools by providing teacher training, curriculum support, and resources, including school supplies, educational materials, and psychosocial support (PSS) tools, as well as specialized materials to accommodate students with disabilities and create a more inclusive environment.

Ensure these institutions meet quality education standards and are recognized certification for transitions to the Libyan system – e.g. When accessing tertiary education.

RECOMMENDATIONS

3.4 Improve enrollment process in tertiary education

Work with the Student Unions and student-based organisations to support Sudanese students accessing tertiary education in Libya and provide them with adequate support.

Livelihood/Employment

4.1 Expand vocational training and employment support services

Establish targeted livelihood support for vulnerable groups such as women and UASC, within safe spaces which includes vocational training, cash-for-work initiatives, and small grants.

Focus on building skills in high-demand sectors, like health, financial services, trade, agriculture, and construction, leveraging Sudanese refugees' prior experience, mapping pathways to potential employment.

4.2 Improve community networking to support employment

Provide capacity-building for Sudanese community leaders and organisations to act as job facilitators and network coordinators, helping refugees integrate into local job markets – especially for labor and skilled workers.

Engage Sudanese community leaders to improve access to vocational training by leveraging their influence to raise awareness and encourage participation within the community.

Health

5.1 Improve access to healthcare

Strengthen partnerships with DHOs to integrate Sudanese refugees into public health centers, especially for essential care like prenatal services, immunizations, and emergencies.

Increase mobile clinic and mobile medical team capacity in regions with high Sudanese refugee populations to overcome issues related to restriction on movement and far health centers.

Advocate for expanding NGO health

programming to compliment work of public health facilities, focusing on primary healthcare, maternal health, child health, and mental health services – especially in the South and East where NGO programming remains limited.

Provide transportation for access for those who face difficulties accessing health facilities, especially for those in rural areas outside the main cities.

Advocate for strong referral systems between NGOs and public health facilities ensuring continuity of care, especially for specialized medical services, while supporting to subsidize access to secondary and tertiary care.

5.2 Implement Nutrition Programs

Implement food assistance programs, especially in key transit cities where refugees are more likely to suffer from malnutrition, as well as underserved areas in the East and South, focusing on vulnerable groups (children, pregnant women).

5.3 Integrate MHPSS services into primary healthcare

Integrate MHPSS services into primary healthcare, training local health workers on mental health care, trauma-informed approaches, and psychological first aid, especially in areas which are entry and transit points (eg Alkufra, Ajdabiya, Aljufra, Sebha, Tobruq/Imsaad) – and where refugees would suffer from psychological trauma from their journey.

Support community-based groups in creating safe spaces for refugees to share coping strategies, reduce isolation, and provide mutual support, while offering comprehensive service mapping through community health workers to ensure access to essential resources.

» Recommendations to Donors

6.1 Increase funding to respond to the Sudanese refugees seeking refuge in Libya

Prioritize funding to expand capacity in critical areas such as public health, education, WASH (water, sanitation, and hygiene), and protection

RECOMMENDATIONS

services. This is crucial for both immediate support in regions with large refugee and vulnerable community populations and in transit areas.

Flexible, multi-year funding models allow for adaptable responses to evolving humanitarian situations and for scaling up ongoing programs without delays.

6.2 Supporting a System Strengthening Approach

Enhance funding to bolster local systems, including health, education, and protection services, to support their capacity to manage both immediate and long-term needs.

Support programs that train local authorities and service providers to sustain development programs post-crisis, ensuring the continuity and resilience of essential services.

Promote funding that encourages the Humanitarian-Development-Peace (HDP) nexus approach, facilitating the integration of humanitarian response with long-term development strategies and social cohesion efforts.

» Recommendations to Authorities

7.1 Facilitate the integration of Sudanese students into the Libyan education system

Implement flexible enrollment criteria for Sudanese refugees especially through the provisional acceptance of student registration while processing documentation, to ensure that they do not miss out on schools.

Facilitate integration of Sudanese schools into the Libyan education system, advocating for recognition of Sudanese diplomas and certificates – and the smooth enrollment of students from the Sudanese school into Libyan tertiary education.

Enhance MHPSS programming in public schools by implementing in-house case management services and specialized capacity-building for social teachers, in collaboration with UNICEF and other NGOs and the Department of Psychological and Social Services at MOE, to ensure comprehensive psychosocial support for students.

7.2 Improve enrollment process in tertiary education

Work with universities and tertiary educational institutions where there are large Sudanese communities, to implement the government's directives and enroll Sudanese students without fees.

Explore the possibility of allocating seats in student dormitories for newly arrived Sudanese students as a part of a scholarship programme.

7.3 Facilitate the regularization of legal status for employment

Streamline pathways to obtain residency and work permits, reducing bureaucratic obstacles – to support access to skilled work such as in education, health and others.

Support Sudanese health workers in acquiring the necessary documentation to work in the Libyan health sector – such as recognition of certification (especially in nursing).

7.4 Implement strong health referral systems

Coordinate with humanitarian actors for strong referral systems between NGOs and public health facilities ensuring continuity of care, especially for specialized medical services, while supporting to subsidize access to secondary and tertiary care.

7.5 Integrate MHPSS services into primary healthcare

Integrate MHPSS services into primary healthcare, working with INGOs and UN to train local health workers on mental health care, trauma-informed approaches, and psychological first aid.

