Libya continues to be a transit point for departure from North Africa towards Europe. UNHCR’s interventions at disembarkation points in Libya focus on the provision of life-saving assistance and protection monitoring, to identify persons in need of international protection, as well as vulnerable individuals, such as unaccompanied and separated children, elderly, medical cases, women at risk or victims of trafficking. UNHCR through its partner International Rescue Committee provides medical services and core relief items.

As of October 31, 2021, the Libyan Coast Guard (LCG) and General Administration for Coastal Security (GACS) rescued/intercepted a total of 27,551 people* in different locations along the Libyan coast. Of the 200 operations from January - October 2021, UNHCR and its partners were present at 157 operations representing 21,422 people. Over the same period last year, they rescued/intercepted a total of 9,705 refugees and migrants at sea. So far in 2021, Libyan local authorities have reported 347 people missing while attempting to cross the Mediterranean towards Europe.

Monthly trends - people rescued/intercepted at sea by the LCG & GACS in 2020-2021

From January - October 2021, 27,551 people* were rescued/intercepted at sea, an increase of 184% compared to the same period in 2020.

Monthly trends - recorded loss of life in Libyan waters in 2020-2021

From January - October 2021, 109 dead bodies were recovered in Libyan waters, compared to 97 over the same period in 2020. In addition, 347 people were reported missing, compared to 122 in the same months in 2020.

Nationalities rescued/intercepted at sea by the LCG & GACS in 2021

- Sudan: 4,027
- Bangladesh: 2,888
- Mali: 2,829
- Egypt: 2,199
- Nigeria: 1,512
- Eritrea: 1,470
- Syria: 1,375
- Guinea: 1,253
- Ivory Coast: 1,107
- Ghana: 660
- Other: 6,559

People rescued/intercepted in 2021 by disembarkation point

- Tripoli Naval Base: 14,248
- Azzawya Oil Refinery Port: 5,498
- Tripoli Commercial Port: 4,876
- Zewar: 479
- Azzawya-Marwa-Delah: 450
- Sabratha: 217
- Gharabul: 71
- Other: 40

People rescued/intercepted at sea by the LCG & GACS in 2021 by group

- Men: 21,558
- Women: 1,991
- Children: 1,372
- Unknown: 2,630

Of the total of 27,551 people* rescued/intercepted at sea, 21,558 were men, 1,991 women, 1,372 children, 2,630 unidentified.

UNHCR’s life-saving activities at disembarkation points

As of October 31, 2021, UNHCR, through its partner International Rescue Committee, provided medical assistance to 1,186 people and distributed 1,735 hygiene kits at disembarkation points. In addition to the Health services there are distributions of 6,127 food items, 629 blankets, 76 dignity kits, 37 baby kits.