



LIBYA OPERATION

UNHCR UPDATE

24 July – 1 August 2017

POPULATION MOVEMENTS

As of 31 July 2017, 42,346 refugees and asylum seekers are registered with UNHCR in Libya. Over 5,400 individuals were registered since UNHCR resumed registration in 2016, and 376 registered during the month of July alone. Men represent 42% of the registered refugees and asylum seekers, women 28% and children 30%. Syrians continue to represent the highest number of refugees and asylum seekers registered, accounting for 21,270 individuals (50%), followed by Palestinians (6,636; 15%), Eritreans (4,687; 11%), Sudanese (3,531; 8%) and Iraqis (3,107, 7%). UNHCR registers refugees and asylum seekers based on the seven nationality groups currently recognised by Libyan authorities as coming from refugee producing countries and continues to seek access to all nationalities. Refugees and asylum seekers are amongst the most vulnerable populations in Libya. They are at risk of violence, exploitation and abuse. In recent discussions with UNHCR staff, they highlighted difficulties faced in Libya, including restricted access to basic services. UNHCR registration and documentation activities help refugees better access public services, including schools and hospitals.

Libya continues to be the main transit point for departures from North Africa to Europe across the Central Mediterranean. In total, 95,088 persons reached Italy by sea so far in 2017, the vast majority departing from Libya. So far in 2017, 8,851 individuals (89% men) were rescued/intercepted at sea by the Libyan Coast Guard (LCG). Over 63% of the refugees and migrants rescued/intercepted at sea disembarked at Azzawya disembarkation point (50 km west of Tripoli), while 23% disembarked in Tripoli. So far in 2017, local authorities recovered 400 bodies of individuals who perished while attempting to cross the Mediterranean. On 30 July, 49 refugees and migrants were rescued/intercepted at sea and disembarked in Azzawya, where they were transferred to a detention centre and immediately assisted by IMC staff with primary health care. UNHCR is following-up with detention authorities to secure their release.

RESPONSE UPDATE

UNHCR supported the Libyan public health system through the provision of 43 pallets of essential medical supplies to be distributed among Libyan hospitals. This contribution to the Ministry of Health, will benefit IDPs, refugees, and host populations. This is UNHCR's second contribution, as a previous delivery of medical supplies was handed-over to the Ministry of Health on 13 July.

UNHCR installed a generator in Triq al Sika detention centre to support the centre's ventilation capacity and mitigate the impact of high temperatures on individuals detained. This contribution will prevent heat-strokes and other medical conditions related to high temperatures and lack of fresh air. In addition, UNHCR and IMC's regular monitoring of detention centres continued during the reporting period, reaching eight detention centres. UNHCR assisted 765 individuals in detention with primary health care and identified vulnerable cases for specific protection interventions. Since January 2016, a total of 954 refugees and asylum-seekers were released from detention following UNHCR's intervention, of which 376 were released in 2017.

On 26 July, UNHCR organized a social event to support refugee families living in urban areas. The event, in which more than 70 refugees, including children, participated, took place at the social centre in Tripoli. Recreational activities included performances and the distribution of tailored core relief items. The event also included support activities and group discussions with young refugee mothers in order to assess the most immediate needs they face and identify solutions. These types of community engagement activities are key to establishing and maintaining networks that promote social cohesion and access to basic services and other opportunities.

HUMANITARIAN ACCESS

UNHCR participated in a joint UN assessment mission to Benghazi to further facilitate the organization's humanitarian work and allow for increased support to Libyans most affected by the crisis. The aim of the mission was to establish steadier and more frequent humanitarian assistance to the families in need inside the city. UNHCR plans to increase its response to the 42,300 IDPs and 133,050 returned IDPs¹ in Benghazi. Through its partner LibAid, UNHCR will deliver core relief items, while monthly cash assistance to the most vulnerable IDP households (3,000 individuals) will continue to be distributed through ACTED.

KEY FIGURES

240,188 Libyans currently internally displaced persons (IDPs)¹

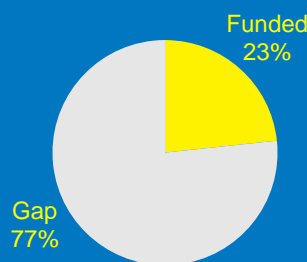
249,298 returned IDPs (returns registered in 2017)¹

42,346 registered refugees and asylum-seekers in Libya

95,088 persons arriving in Italy by sea so far in 2017²

FUNDING

USD 75.5 million required for IDPs and refugees in Libya in 2017



¹ IOM-DTM as of 29/06/2017

² data2.unhcr.org as of 1/08/2017

