

LIBYA

18-29 September 2017 Population Movements

Key figures

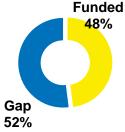
217,022 Libyans currently internally displaced persons (IDPs)¹

278,559 returned IDPs (returns registered in 2017)¹

43,113 registered refugees and asylumseekers in Libya ²

104,852 persons arrived in Italy by sea so far in 2017³





- ¹ IOM-DTM July 2017
- ² Data as of 26 September 2017

³ data2.unhcr.org as of 27

September 2017

As of 27 September, 12,167 refugees and migrants were rescued/intercepted at sea by the Libyan Coast Guard (LCG) in 2017, while 405 bodies of individuals who perished at sea while attempting to cross the Mediterranean were recovered. During the reporting period, the LCG undertook two rescue/interception at sea operations. On 21 September, 40 individuals were rescued/intercepted at sea by the LGC, while 90 individuals remained unaccounted for following a shipwreck near Zuwara (120 km west of Tripoli). According to UNHCR's sources, 130 individuals departed from Sabratha (80 km west of Tripoli) on 15 September and remained at sea for approximately one week. The 40 survivors (mainly from West Africa - 27 men, 5 women, 8 children) were transferred by authorities to a detention centre. UNHCR is following-up on their situation. On 27 September, 209 refugees and migrants were rescued/intercepted by the LCG. The nationalities of individuals rescued/intercepted included Morocco (39%), Mali (17%), Ivory Coast (12%), and Syria (11%). So far in September, 1,575 refugees and migrants were disembarked in Libya. Despite the fact that 68% of individuals rescued/intercepted this month were men, UNHCR continues to note a significant increase in the number of women (18%) and children (14%) in comparison to previous months.

UNHCR Response

A total of 10,991 internally displaced persons (IDPs) and returnees were reached by UNHCR and its partner LibAid and received humanitarian assistance over the last month (including sleeping mats, kitchen sets, blankets, hygiene kits and plastic sheets). UNHCR and LibAid are targeting IDPs and returnees in areas north of Benghazi (downtown Benghazi, Al-Sabri, and Sooq al-Hoot) where electricity and drinking water are scarce. By mid-October, UNHCR plans to have reached 15,000 IDPs and returnees with humanitarian assistance. The targeting of families and individuals receiving assistance takes into account different vulnerabilities of the population, including persons with specific needs.

So far in 2017, UNHCR and its partners conducted 730 visits to 30 official detention centres in Libya. UNHCR estimates that 6,000 refugees and migrants from some 33 countries are detained at any given time in Libya, other 3,000 individuals in unofficial detention centres. At the detention centres, UNHCR and its partners distribute assistance and advocate for the release of persons of concern, enhanced access to screening, identification and registration, as well as for measures preventing risks of sexual and gender based violence. The assistance that UNHCR provides in detention facilities aims at alleviating the suffering of detainees through ensuring an improvement of detention conditions. Since 2016, 1,207 refugees and asylum-seekers were released from detention following UNHCR's intervention, of whom 629 were released in 2017 alone.

Between 26 and 28 September, UNHCR organized a three-day workshop on International Refugee Law (IRL) for Libyan officials, including representatives from the Department for Combating Illegal Migration (DCIM). This activity is part of a wider capacity building strategy to increase the knowledge of international protection standards and to promote cooperation with UNHCR. So far in 2017, five capacity building activities on IRL have been conducted.

UNHCR and its partner CESVI provided emergency support through six 24-hour hotlines with country-wide coverage. During the reporting period, hotlines in Tripoli received 30 phone calls, primarily from Syrian, Palestinian, Sudanese and Iraqi refugees. The hotline in Benghazi received 16 calls from Syrian, Palestinian and Iraqi refugees. Emergency situations were immediately addressed, while other callers requested information on UNHCR's registration procedures and process to receive financial assistance.

UNHCR UNHCR Libya Response in 2017

