



# LIBYA OPERATION

## UNHCR EXTERNAL UPDATE

26 May 2017

### OPERATIONAL UPDATE

**High Commissioner (HC) Filippo Grandi announced this past weekend the stepping up of UNHCR's presence and programmes in Libya, while visiting Tripoli.** The HC was accompanied during the missions to Tunis and Tripoli by UNHCR's Regional Director for the Middle East and North Africa, Amin Awad, the Special Envoy for the Central Mediterranean Situation, Vincent Cochetel and UNHCR Representative to Libya, Roberto Mignone. He met with senior officials in Tripoli including from the Ministry of Education, Ministry of Migrants and the Displaced and the Ministry of Social Affairs. UNHCR's delegation also visited the Tariq Al-Sikka detention centre. The HC urged for an end to detention of refugees and asylum-seekers, noting the appalling conditions in which people are held. The HC also underlined the importance of UNHCR, IOM and other humanitarian organisations closely working together to help Libyan authorities respond to the complex mixed migration flows as well as the needs of IDPs and returnees. The HC also held a meeting with key donors and ambassadors to Libya on 22 May in Tunis.

### SITUATION UPDATE

**The overall security situation in Libya remains volatile with the potential for an escalation in the south following** recent clashes in Brak Al-Shati airbase between the country's opposing groups. The security situation in Tripoli remained relatively calm until Friday 26 May when armed clashes were reported in various locations across the city.

### RESPONSE UPDATE

**UNHCR's partners provided medical consultations and hygiene kits to 835 refugees and asylum seekers in Community Development Centres (CDCs) in Tripoli.** One out of three individuals assisted in CDCs in Tripoli reported health-related needs. Many were referred for registration and their documents were renewed. Those eligible were also able to collect multipurpose cash grants. UNHCR's partners also reached out to some 65 individuals who could not get to the CDCs, providing them with counselling and monitoring. On a weekly basis, CDCs support close to 900 refugees and asylum seekers.

**UNHCR's partner provided 27 rescue kits and 17 individual medical consultations to a total of 41 individuals, including women and children in west Tripoli.** Reportedly, these persons were part of a group of 463 individuals rescued and disembarked by the Libyan Coast Guard (LCG). UNHCR's partners operate six health posts at disembarkation points in Tripoli. So far, in 2017, 1,158 rescue kits have been distributed and 639 medical consultations provided after rescue/interception operations conducted by the LCG.

**UNHCR provided assistance to 413 individuals during 19 visits to detention centres (DC).** Access to DCs is granted by the Libyan Department for Combatting Illegal Migration. So far in 2017, as a result of UNHCR intervention and advocacy, 299 refugees and asylum-seekers have been released by detention authorities.

### HUMANITARIAN ACCESS

**Preparations towards the return of UN presence in Libya continue.** In connection with the ongoing UN Strategic Assessment Mission, which is looking into conditions to support the lifting of the evacuation status, a UN security team is also undertaking assessments in Tripoli. A contingent of UN guards should be fully operational by July 2017. The return plan foresees the establishment of permanent international presence in Tripoli and other regions.

**UNHCR wishes to thank the major donors of unrestricted and regional funds:** United States of America, the European Union, Italy, CERF, Sweden, Netherlands, Norway, Denmark, Australia, Spain, Switzerland, France and Germany. Algeria, Austria, Belgium, Bosnia and Herzegovina, Canada, Chile, Costa Rica, Estonia, Finland, Iceland, Indonesia, Ireland, Korea, Kuwait, Lithuania, Luxembourg, Malta, Monaco, Morocco, New Zealand, Qatar, Singapore, Sri Lanka, Thailand, Turkey, United Arab Emirates, Uruguay, Zambia and Private Donors.

## KEY FIGURES

**294,436** Libyans currently internally displaced persons (IDPs)<sup>1</sup>

**196,852** returned IDPs (returns registered in 2017)<sup>1</sup>

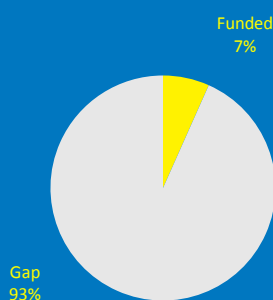
**1,158** sea rescue kits distributed

**50,275** persons arriving in Italy since 1 January 2017 (source: data2.unhcr.org)<sup>2</sup>

**40,713** registered refugees and asylum-seekers in Libya

## FUNDING

**USD 75.5 million** requested for IDPs and refugees in Libya in 2017



<sup>1</sup>IOM-DTM January February 2017.

<sup>2</sup>Accessed on 25/05/2017