UNHCR UPDATE

LIBYA

26 March 2021

Key figures:

278,177 Libyans currently internally displaced (IDPs)[1]

604,965 returned IDPs[1]

43,624 registered refugees and asylum-seekers[2]

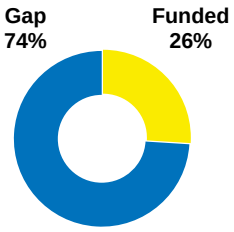
18 monitoring visits to detention centres in 2021

121 refugees and asylum-seekers released from detention in 2021

153 vulnerable individuals departed from Libya in 2021

Funding

USD **93.0** M required for 2021



[1] *IOM-DTM December 2020.*
[2] *Data as of 1 March 2021.*

Population movement

As of 25 March, 3,170 refugees and migrants have been registered as rescued/intercepted at sea by the Libyan Coast Guard and disembarked in Libya. UNHCR and its medical partner, the International Rescue Committee (IRC), continue to be present at disembarkation points to provide urgent medical assistance and core relief items (CRIs).

UNHCR response

This week marks one year since coronavirus (COVID-19) was officially recorded in Libya. The first case of COVID-19 was reported on 24 March 2020; since then, more than 156,000 cases have been recorded. With a huge strain placed on Libya's health services, **UNHCR's COVID response** initially focussed on the health sector. In response to shortages of basic equipment and medicines and to help stem the increase in infection rates, UNHCR and partners supplied 15 ambulances to various municipalities, hygiene kits, soap, PPE, blankets, sanitary cloth for hospital bedding, and tents, as well as 13 generators. The provision of 14 prefabricated containers, to be used as COVID-19 testing and reception facilities at Misrata, Benghazi, Sebha and Azzawiya, helped expand space at primary healthcare centres. Many of these activities fall under UNHCR's Quick Impact Projects (QIPs) programme, focussing on community cohesion and peaceful coexistence. Public health awareness was also raised amongst refugees, asylum-seekers and Libyans alike through community mobilisers, text messages and social media, in order to explain how to limit the risks of exposure to COVID-19.

UNHCR supports local healthcare centres and organizations with assistance that has included 15 ambulances to municipalities across Libya. ©UNHCR

New programmes were launched to help counter the socio-economic impact of COVID-19. During Ramadan 2020, UNHCR distributed CRIs to 4,788 food-insecure refugees and asylum-seekers, mostly in Tripoli, as well as at Misrata and Azzawiya. This assistance included food baskets (to last for one month), hygiene kits, jerry cans and water purification tablets (provided by UNICEF). In June, UNHCR together with WFP began a pilot food distribution project in Tripoli, aiming to reach some of the most food-insecure refugees with food baskets, later expanding to Zawiya, Misrata, Benghazi and Zwara. By the end of 2020, more than 15,000 individuals (the initial aim being 10,000 persons) had been reached by the year end. In 2021, UNHCR and WFP aim to reach a similar number. During Ramadan 2020, UNHCR through its partner LibAid also distributed its food package to more than 500 IDP families (3,731 individuals) living in Tripoli's Hay Al-Andalus district.

Detention centres (DC) present a particular health risk due to COVID-19, because of overcrowded and insanitary conditions. UNHCR through its partners organized the distribution of hygiene kits and other CRIs at a number of DCs across the country. From mid-April until the present, some 8,597 hygiene kits have been distributed to 17 DCs.

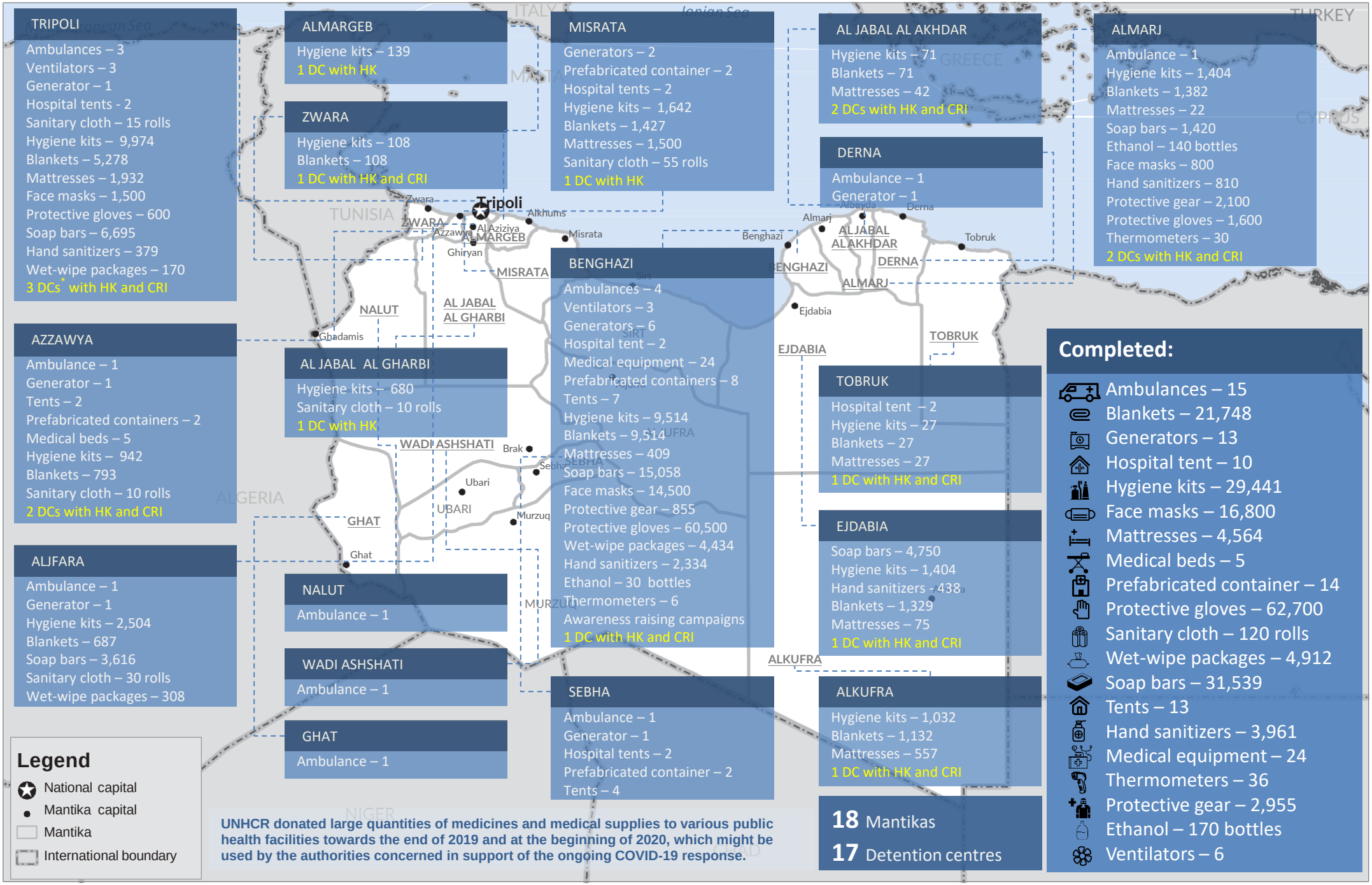
With restrictions on movement, UNHCR scaled up its hotline response in order to ensure continuity of its services during the pandemic, as well as improve its outreach. In 2020 alone, over 10,000 calls were received. Most enquiries relate to material assistance and cash, followed by queries on registration and resettlement, as well as those relating to COVID-19. The majority of calls are from people in Tripoli and the wider western area. In July, a new 24-hour emergency medical hotline and ambulance service, to refer emergency cases to secondary and tertiary hospitals and clinics, was launched in partnership with IRC and the Libyan Red Crescent. In August a new call centre was opened, run by UNHCR partner, Norwegian Refugee Council, to enhance two-way communication between staff and refugees/asylum-seekers across Libya.

Special thanks to major donors: Canada | Denmark | European Union | Finland | France | Germany | Italy | Norway | Sweden| Switzerland |The Netherlands | United Kingdom | USA | Private Donors

UNHCR LIBYA: Support to COVID-19 Response

March 2020 – March 2021

UNHCR
The UN Refugee Agency



TRIPOLI

Ambulances – 3
Ventilators – 3
Generator – 1
Hospital tents - 2
Sanitary cloth – 15 rolls
Hygiene kits – 9,974
Blankets – 5,278
Mattresses – 1,932
Face masks – 1,500
Protective gloves – 600
Soap bars – 6,695
Hand sanitizers – 379
Wet-wipe packages – 170
3 DCs* with HK and CRI

ALMARGEB

Hygiene kits – 139
1 DC with HK

ZWARA

Hygiene kits – 108
Blankets – 108
1 DC with HK and CRI

MISRATA

Generators – 2
Prefabricated container – 2
Hospital tents – 2
Hygiene kits – 1,642
Blankets – 1,427
Mattresses – 1,500
Sanitary cloth – 55 rolls
1 DC with HK

AL JABAL AL AKHDAR

Hygiene kits – 71
Blankets – 71
Mattresses – 42
2 DCs with HK and CRI

ALMARJ

Ambulance – 1
Hygiene kits – 1,404
Blankets – 1,382
Mattresses – 22
Soap bars – 1,420
Ethanol – 140 bottles
Face masks – 800
Hand sanitizers – 810
Protective gear – 2,100
Protective gloves – 1,600
Thermometers – 30
2 DCs with HK and CRI

DERNA

Ambulance – 1
Generator – 1

AZZAWYA

Ambulance – 1
Generator – 1
Tents – 2
Prefabricated containers – 2
Medical beds – 5
Hygiene kits – 942
Blankets – 793
Sanitary cloth – 10 rolls
2 DCs with HK and CRI

AL JABAL AL GHARBI

Hygiene kits – 680
Sanitary cloth – 10 rolls
1 DC with HK

BENGHAZI

Ambulances – 4
Ventilators – 3
Generators – 6
Hospital tent – 2
Medical equipment – 24
Prefabricated containers – 8
Tents – 7
Hygiene kits – 9,514
Blankets – 9,514
Mattresses – 409
Soap bars – 15,058
Face masks – 14,500
Protective gear – 855
Protective gloves – 60,500
Wet-wipe packages – 4,434
Hand sanitizers – 2,334
Ethanol – 30 bottles
Thermometers – 6
Awareness raising campaigns
1 DC with HK and CRI

TOBRUK

Hospital tent – 2
Hygiene kits – 27
Blankets – 27
Mattresses – 27
1 DC with HK and CRI

EJDABIA

Soap bars – 4,750
Hygiene kits – 1,404
Hand sanitizers - 438
Blankets – 1,329
Mattresses – 75
1 DC with HK and CRI

ALJFARA

Ambulance – 1
Generator – 1
Hygiene kits – 2,504
Blankets – 687
Soap bars – 3,616
Sanitary cloth – 30 rolls
Wet-wipe packages – 308

NALUT

Ambulance – 1

WADI ASHSHATI

Ambulance – 1

GHAT

Ambulance – 1

SEBHA

Ambulance – 1
Generator – 1
Hospital tents – 2
Prefabricated container – 2
Tents – 4

ALKUFRA

Hygiene kits – 1,032
Blankets – 1,132
Mattresses – 557
1 DC with HK and CRI

Legend

- National capital
- Mantika capital
- Mantika
- International boundary

UNHCR donated large quantities of medicines and medical supplies to various public health facilities towards the end of 2019 and at the beginning of 2020, which might be used by the authorities concerned in support of the ongoing COVID-19 response.

18 Mantikas
17 Detention centres

Completed:

- Ambulances – 15
- Blankets – 21,748
- Generators – 13
- Hospital tent – 10
- Hygiene kits – 29,441
- Face masks – 16,800
- Mattresses – 4,564
- Medical beds – 5
- Prefabricated container – 14
- Protective gloves – 62,700
- Sanitary cloth – 120 rolls
- Wet-wipe packages – 4,912
- Soap bars – 31,539
- Tents – 13
- Hand sanitizers – 3,961
- Medical equipment – 24
- Thermometers – 36
- Protective gear – 2,955
- Ethanol – 170 bottles
- Ventilators – 6

The boundaries and names shown, and the designations used on this map do not imply official endorsement or acceptance by the United Nations.

* - Detention Centres