

Revision to the UNHCR Supplementary Budget: The Libya Situation 2011



Men queue for food at refugee camp on Tunisian border with Libya. /UNHCR/ Branthwaite

**Donor Relations and Resource
Mobilization Service
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THE CONTEXT

Since the violence erupted in Libya in mid-February 2011, more than 360,000 people have fled to neighbouring countries: over 180,000 into Tunisia, more than 150,000 into Egypt, 15,000 into Niger, some 10,000 into Algeria and some 6,000 to Chad and Sudan. Thousands more, including people originating from conflict affected countries, such as Somalia, Eritrea, Iraq, but also Libya, continue to cross day and night. Given the lack of access inside Libya, it has been difficult to ascertain the extent of internal displacement, however it is surmised that needs will be high in the eastern region between Ajdabiya and Tobruk.

The large scale population movement has caused a significant humanitarian burden for the majority of Libya's neighbours, some of whom are themselves coping with the consequences of their own political upheavals. Following requests from the Governments of Egypt and Tunisia, who were faced with some 15,000 - 20,000 persons crossing their borders each day, UNHCR mounted an exceptional response. In the first month, UNHCR 1) mobilized some 90 staff to reinforce existing resources in the region; 2) airlifted hundreds of tonnes of humanitarian assistance, including tents, to Egypt and Tunisia; 3) initiated the contingency planning process for Egypt and Tunisia to respond to an external outflow from Libya; 4) supported the establishment and management of the main camp at Ras Djir in Tunisia; and 5) joined IOM in facilitating the evacuation of tens of thousands of third country nationals.

Prior to the turmoil in Libya, UNHCR had registered over 8,000 refugees and 3,000 asylum-seekers. In addition, UNHCR is aware of tens of thousands of others who originate from conflict-affected countries whom may be of concern to the organization. These include Eritreans, Iraqis, Palestinians, Somalis, Sudanese and

Yemenis. UNHCR remains concerned about the many refugees and others trapped inside Libya, particularly people from sub-Saharan Africa who are subject to harassment, assault and, in many cases, unable to move and seek safety.

With the evacuation of all UN international staff, coupled with the volatile security environment, the ability of UNHCR's national staff to access refugees and other people of concern in Libya has been severely restricted. Despite the challenges of operating in Libya, particularly in Tripoli, UNHCR is continuing to provide financial assistance and counseling services to refugees and people of concern. UNHCR national staff and an implementing partner in Tripoli continue to receive over 100 phone calls per day on four hot lines from people of concern desperate for information and assistance. Subject to security conditions and the necessary clearance, UNHCR is poised to expand its presence in other locations in Libya, including Benghazi.

This revised budget presents the additional budgetary requirements for UNHCR to continue to respond to the ongoing crisis in Libya by meeting protection, shelter and non-food item needs until the end of June. This budget includes the cost of staff deployed to Tunisia (35), Egypt (30), Headquarters, including the Humanitarian Evacuation Cell (7) and those on-standby to enter Libya (16). In addition, the budget includes the cost of airlifting non-food items to Egypt and Tunisia, camp management in Tunisia, community support projects in the border regions, financial assistance and protection inside Libya, as well as the cost of the humanitarian airlift. It also includes the cost of additional staff deployed to the Mediterranean to support authorities and ensure the protection needs of persons who have landed on Lampedusa and Malta.

STRATEGY AND ACTIVITIES

Tunisia

The decisive response by the international community in the first month of the emergency assisted to avert a potential humanitarian disaster on the Tunisian border. In conjunction with IOM and concerned governments, over 56,000 persons have been airlifted from Tunisia. This has greatly alleviated the pressure at the border, which facilitated the entry of refugees and other people of concern. There are currently over 2,000 Eritreans, Iraqis, Libyans, Somalis and others of concern to UNHCR at the border, 330 of whom were previously registered with UNHCR in Libya

While the initial response has mitigated the humanitarian crisis at the border, some 2,000 people continue to cross each day and night. The character of the flow continues to change with a decreasing number of Bangladeshis and Egyptian and an increasing number of persons from Sub-Saharan Africa, including a growing number of families and people of concern to UNHCR.

The number of Libyans crossing is still relatively low with the majority not seeking assistance or protection from UNHCR.



Bangladeshi migrants queue to board buses bound for Djerba airport in Tunisia. UNHCR/ Branthwaite

Once across the border, those who cannot immediately start their journey home are taken to a transit camp while transportation is organized. Given the generous donor support, the vast majority of third country nationals have been able to repatriate within days. In order to

ensure that the basic humanitarian needs are met, UNHCR supported the Tunisian authorities in the establishment of a transit camp at Shousha with a capacity of 20,000 people, seven kilometres from the Libyan border.

Thus far, UNHCR has responded to the crisis by providing approximately 60,000 blankets, 25,000 quilts, 10,000 tents, 25,000 mattresses, three rubhalls and tens of thousands of other non-food items.

The contingency plan for Tunisia covers the needs of some 250,000 people. As part of this plan, and following inter-agency consultations on the capacity of partners, UNHCR will budget to cover 90,000 arrivals over the next three months. There will also be a support component for host communities that will include food and non-food items, financial assistance, community projects and support to local authorities.

As the lead international agency for coordination at the border UNHCR will ensure that basic human needs are met in transit facilities, such a shelter, water and health services. Assistance will also include advocacy at the border, counseling, and identification of vulnerable people and those in need of protection. UNHCR will also register people of concern, provide documentation and assess protection claims, pending the identification of a durable solution. UNHCR will continue to distribute non-food items and will provide financial assistance to the host communities to support them in coping with the influx. Community support programmes, such as the rehabilitation of community centres and schools that have been used to accommodate will also be implemented. In addition, a number of ambulances, garbage trucks and light vehicle will be provided to local authorities to enhance their response capacity. Furthermore, the Tunisian Red

Crescent provides psycho-social counseling for people traumatized by violent events in Libya.

Egypt

UNHCR has mobilized 30 staff to Egypt, many of whom have deployed to the Saloum border crossing. UNHCR is working closely with the Egyptian Red Crescent and other agencies to address the immediate needs of people at the border. The number of people crossing into Egypt per day is estimated at some 1,500 – 2,500, the majority being Chadian, Egyptian, Libyans and Sudanese. Returning Egyptians are transported to their home towns by the Government of Egypt.

Approximately 3,000 people remain in the transit area awaiting onward transportation. Many are unable to enter Egypt as they lack identity documents. UNHCR, in collaboration with partners, provide food, water and blankets for all those waiting between the border points. UNHCR will also provide psycho-social support to people stranded at the border.

As in Tunisia, Egypt has opened its borders to all Libyans fleeing the upheaval in their country. Tens of thousands of Libyans are reported to have crossed the border and to have traveled to different urban centres in Egypt. Many Libyans have also returned to Libya. UNHCR will assist vulnerable Libyans, with particular emphasis on women, children, the elderly and people with disabilities.



Food for those fleeing Egypt. UNHCR staff provide meals to families stranded at the Egyptian border town of Sallum. UNHCR / P. Moore / March 2011

Discussions are continuing with the Government of Egypt to guarantee access to Egyptian territory for refugees and asylum-seekers registered with UNHCR in Libya and

other people in need of international protection. There are some 300 refugees and asylum seekers at the border, the vast majority undocumented and not admitted into Egyptian territory. The population consists of Eritreans, Ethiopians, Somalis, Sudanese and Iraqis, a quarter of whom are women.

Over the next three months, UNHCR will plan to assist 50,000 people. UNHCR will undertake refugee status determination, protection interventions and seek resettlement opportunities for these refugees, or voluntary repatriation, as appropriate. UNHCR will assist these refugees with medical, education and financial assistance during their stay in Egypt. Local procurement of essential non-food items will also be carried out.

Libya

The majority of refugees and asylum-seekers registered with UNHCR remains in Tripoli, unable to relocate or access basic services. Reportedly some refugees and others of concern have been assaulted, raped, shot and, in a number of reported cases, killed. In addition, some people of concern from sub-Saharan Africa are accused of being part of the pro-government mercenary forces.

UNHCR is receiving increasingly desperate calls from refugees and asylum-seekers inside Libya. The most common request is for emergency evacuation or financial assistance to meet daily needs.

UNHCR's national staff in Libya are working under extremely difficult circumstances to assist people of concern. Together with UNHCR's implementing partner, limited assistance and counselling are being provided. In addition to four local telephone hotlines, UNHCR's Regional Bureau for the Middle East and North Africa established a similar system at Headquarters to receive calls from Libya and elsewhere.

UNHCR has mobilized two emergency teams for Libya. The first team has been deployed to Cairo and the Saloum border point so that it can move into eastern Libya as soon as UN security clearance is obtained. A second team has been mobilized for deployment to western Libya. Once in Libya, UNHCR will seek to provide immediate assistance to some 20,000 people for three months, with a particular focus on cash assistance. In addition, UNHCR will undertake at least 20 quick impact projects and provide material assistance in those areas hosting refugees and other people of concern.

UNHCR, in coordination with local NGOs, grassroot associations and community leaders, will establish a rapid monitoring system to identify protection concerns and people with special needs. UNHCR will advocate for refugees and others of concern, closely liaising with community leaders and other authorities to raise awareness about the protection situation. Mechanisms for early warning of further protection needs and displacement movements will be set up.

The Egyptian and Tunisian Governments have also asked UNHCR to assist in alleviating the burden at their borders by exploring resettlement of people found to be in need of international protection. An increasing number of recognized refugees have made their way out of Libya and UNHCR is consulting with resettlement countries to offer resettlement places, in addition to their agreed quota for 2011.

There are concerns about the availability and accessibility of medical care and supplies in Libya. UNHCR procured essential non-food items for 10,000 people as well as medical supplies which were brought into eastern Libya with the support of the Egyptian and Libyan Red Crescent Societies.

Regional activities in North Africa

Following requests from the Egyptian and Tunisian Governments, UNHCR joined IOM in supporting the humanitarian evacuation of people fleeing the conflict in Libya. UNHCR

chartered over 115 aircraft and moved some 25,000 persons, the vast majority originating from Tunisia. In total, the Joint IOM/UNHCR Humanitarian Evacuation Cell, hosted in UNHCR's HQs, has supported the repatriation of some 70,000 third country nationals. Following the attainment of its initial objectives, including the decongesting of the borders, UNHCR will scale down its engagement in IOM's humanitarian evacuation. Funding to cover on-going flights and to cover advances made from UNHCR's operational reserve to ensure the success of the response is still required.

Europe

UNHCR offices in southern Europe are supporting authorities to respond to the continued influx of irregular migrants, particularly to the islands of Lampedusa in Italy and Malta. Discussions are also on-going with governments to identify needs, as well as to make preparations to deploy additional staff if necessary.



COORDINATION

As the lead UN agency on the Tunisian and Egyptian borders, the Office will implement its response plan in close coordination with other partners.

In Egypt, Tunisia and at Headquarters, UNHCR participates actively in the inter-agency humanitarian actions and leads the response to the displacement situation at the borders. Close coordination is maintained with IOM, in particular for the evacuation of people fleeing Libya, and with OCHA in relation to contingency planning inside Libya. UNHCR is also working closely with the respective Red Crescent movements of Egypt, Libya, Tunisia and the UAE, as well as with our sister operational agencies UNICEF, WHO and WFP. A telecommunications operation will provide basic data and telephone infrastructure to agencies.

FINANCIAL REQUIREMENTS

| Rights Groups and Objectives | Tunisia Pillar I Revised | Egypt Pillar I Revised | Libya Pillar I Revised | Libya Pillar IV | Regional North Africa Pillar I Revised | Europe Pillar 1 Revised | Grand Total |
|--|--------------------------------|------------------------------|------------------------------|--------------------|---|-------------------------------|-------------------|
| Favourable Protection Environment | | | | | | | |
| National & regional migration policy | - | - | - | - | 22,470,000 | - | 22,470,000 |
| Cooperation with partners | - | - | 355,647 | - | - | - | 355,647 |
| Emergency management | 424,153 | 176,823 | 898,800 | - | - | - | 1,499,776 |
| Subtotal | 424,153 | 176,823 | 1,254,447 | - | 22,470,000 | - | 24,325,423 |
| Fair Protection Processes and Documentation | | | | | | | |
| Access to asylum procedures | - | - | - | - | - | 958,064 | 958,064 |
| Registration and profiling | 336,967 | - | - | - | - | - | 336,967 |
| Subtotal | 336,967 | - | - | - | - | 958,064 | 1,295,031 |
| Security from Violence and Exploitation | | | | | | | |
| Impact on host communities improved | 4,063,021 | 3,210,000 | - | - | - | - | 7,273,021 |
| Subtotal | 4,063,021 | 3,210,000 | - | - | - | - | 7,273,021 |
| Basic Needs and Services | | | | | | | |
| Basic domestic and hygiene items | 2,239,354 | 5,004,097 | 1,218,163 | 117,700 | - | - | 8,579,314 |
| Nutrition | - | 6,251,965 | - | - | - | - | 6,251,965 |
| Health | - | 884,116 | - | - | - | - | 884,116 |
| Services for groups with specific needs | 117,821 | - | 2,764,606 | 353,100 | - | - | 3,235,527 |
| Shelter and Infrastructure improved | 4,165,320 | - | - | - | - | - | 4,165,320 |
| Subtotal | 6,522,494 | 12,140,178 | 3,982,769 | 470,800 | - | - | 23,116,241 |
| Community Participation and Self-Management | | | | | | | |
| Self-reliance and livelihoods | 35,346 | - | 296,373 | - | - | - | 331,719 |
| Subtotal | 35,346 | - | 296,373 | - | - | - | 331,719 |
| External Relations | | | | | | | |
| Public information | 64,801 | - | - | - | - | - | 64,801 |
| Subtotal | 64,801 | - | - | - | - | - | 64,801 |
| Logistics and Operations Support | | | | | | | |
| Logistics and supply | 5,207,393 | - | 59,389 | 117,700 | - | - | 5,384,482 |
| Programme Management, Coordinantion | 956,467 | - | - | - | - | - | 956,467 |
| Subtotal | 6,163,859 | - | 59,389 | 117,700 | - | - | 6,340,948 |
| Headquarters and Regional Support | | | | | | | |
| Emergency response | - | - | - | - | 2,910,400 | - | 2,910,400 |
| External Relations reinforced | 42,415 | - | - | - | - | - | 42,415 |
| Subtotal | 42,415 | - | - | - | 2,910,400 | - | 2,952,815 |
| TOTAL SUPPLEMENTARY BUDGET REQUIREMENTS | 17,653,057 | 15,527,001 | 5,592,978 | 588,500 | 25,380,400 | 958,064 | 65,700,000 |