

Update no 11 Humanitarian Situation in Libya and the Neighbouring Countries

18 March 2011

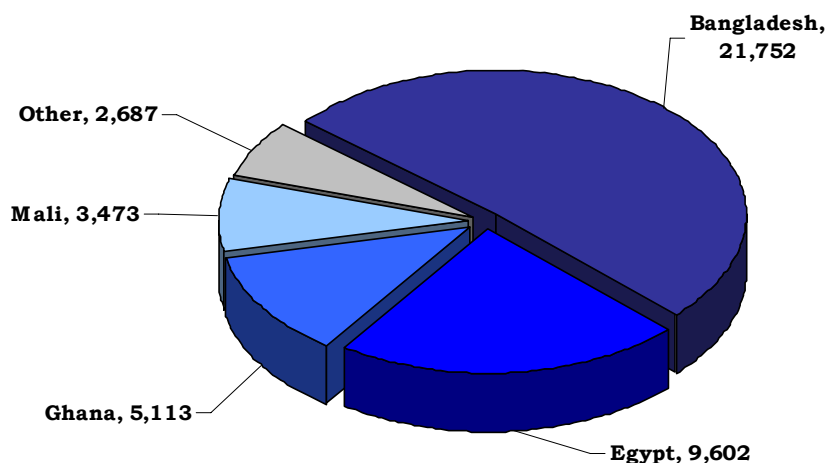
Highlights

- The IOM Director General and UNHCR High Commissioner provided an update to donors in Geneva on 18 March 2011. They praised the continuous efforts of the Governments and host communities of the neighbouring countries and appealed to donor countries to continue their commitment to the operation. UNHCR/IOM currently work with a scenario of around 1,500-2,500 people crossing from Libya and in need of assistance per day (total for all neighbouring countries). This would translate into future needs of air evacuation in the amount of USD 1,6 – 3,2 million per day. Both the HC as well as the DG underlined the unpredictability of the situation and appealed for flexibility and financial support from donors.
- On 17 March, the U.N. Security Council voted to authorize a no-fly zone over Libya. The resolution imposes a “ban of all flights in Libyan airspace” except for aid planes; authorizes member states to “take all necessary measures” to “protect civilians and civilian populated areas under threat of attack”; excludes the use of occupation force; toughens the arms embargo by calling on all member states to ‘inspect their territory vessels and aircraft bound to or from Libya’; and widens an asset freeze to include Libyan Investment Authority, Central Bank of Libya and Libyan National Oil Company among others.
- The trend in numbers of people crossing from Libya into Tunisia remains unpredictable. In Egypt the number of arrivals increased in the past days and the majority of new arrivals now consist of non-Egyptians, including an increased share of Libyans.
- As of 17 March, the joint IOM/UNHCR Humanitarian Evacuation Cell (HEC) coordinated a total of 216 flights (IOM/UNHCR arranged flights and bi-lateral flights coordinated with HEC). 42,627 people were evacuated, including 36,261 from Tunisia and 5,902 from Egypt (HEC coordinated flights).



A young Somali child clings on to his mother, whose family arrived at Choucha camp, Tunisia./ UNHCR/ A. Branthwaite

Departures from Tunisia and Egypt by destination Total 42,627 people as of 17 March



60
YEARS

UNHCR
The UN Refugee Agency

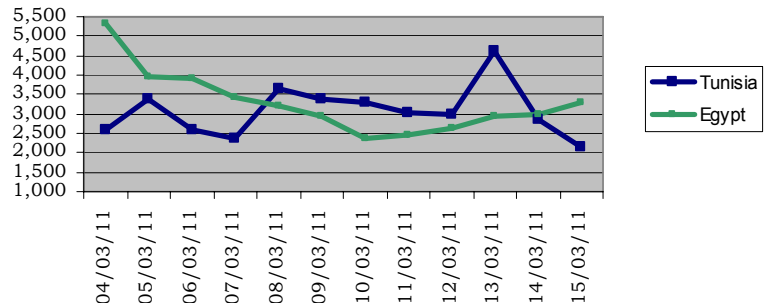
Population Movements

By 16 March, 300,706 persons arrived to Tunisia (158,721), Egypt (128,814), Niger (4,077) and Algeria (9,094). While the influx to Tunisia decreased, the number of people crossing to Egypt increased in the past days.

Border crossings as of 16 March 2011	
Tunisia	Egypt
TOTAL 158,721	TOTAL 128,814
Tunisians 19,022	Egyptians 772,302
Libyans 16,149*	Others 56,512*
Others 123,550	

*This figure includes usual border traffic

Daily arrivals in Egypt and Tunisia



Country Updates

LIBYA

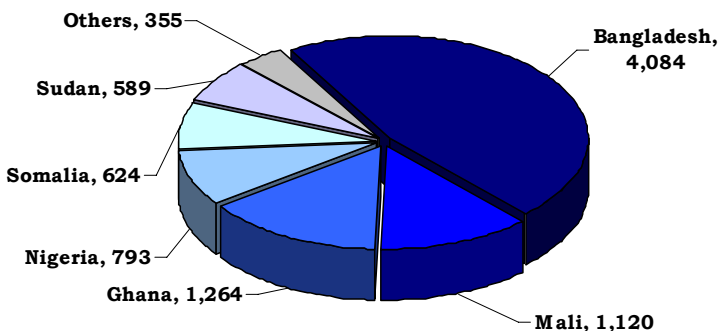
UNHCR through cooperation with local partners on the ground facilitated the voluntary transfer of small groups of concern from Benghazi to Saloum, upon their specific request. The UNHCR Libya emergency team remains on stand-by in Al Saloum, Egypt.

TUNISIA

Tunisian border with Libya (Ras Ajdir border crossing): On 16 March, a total of 2,389 people arrived, including Libyans.

Choucha Transit camp: As of 17 March, 8,829 people are residing in the camp, among them over 740 persons of concern to UNHCR in Choucha camp, this includes 624 Somalis and 115 Eritreans.

Choucha camp population as of 17 March
Total population 8,829



UAE Red Crescent camp (est. capacity 1,400):

On 17 March, a total of 583 persons are staying in the camp, including 395 people from Mali, 99 from Sudan and 83 from Nigeria. Late on 17 March a group from Burkino Faso arrived.

IFRC camp (est. capacity 2,000 persons): The camp is not yet opened.

• Protection

UNHCR held meetings with a group of Somali and Eritreans to discuss potential durable solutions. It was decided that Somali refugees will not yet be considered for resettlement until those Somalis, who are willing to repatriate, are clearly identified. Five Eritrean refugees were interviewed for resettlement.

While the number of the camp population is decreasing, UNHCR is restructuring the camp to improve security after reported incidents of sexual assault.

The Humanitarian Information Centre for camp residents opened on 17 March.

• Humanitarian assistance

A total of 21,000 meals were distributed by partner organizations. The construction of toilet cubicles, shower cubicles and latrines is ongoing.

EGYPT

Egyptian border with Libya (Saloum border crossing): A total of 3,777 people arrived on 16 March. UNHCR continued to monitor arrivals at the transit area along the border. Besides Libyan families, rebel fighters have started to arrive, some of them injured.

Some 2,500 – 3,000 currently remain at the border, including some 92 women and 71 children.

• Protection

Palestinians continued not to have access to the border. A Palestinian man and his daughter have been denied access since 15 March, despite efforts by UNHCR to enable their entry into Egypt. A Palestinian member of a Reuter's team that crossed from Libya to Egypt on 16 March was denied entry. No news was received that he was allowed in despite both UNHCR and Reuters exerted efforts to enable his entry.

There are currently 260 Ethiopians, Eritreans and Somalis from Benghazi at the border, including a new group of 148 which arrived in the night of 16 March. UNHCR continues interviews.

• Humanitarian assistance

A total of 7,000 meals were distributed on 16 March. New arrivals were provided with mats, blankets, food and sanitary material.

ITALY

Arrivals to Lampedusa: The total number of new arrivals since mid-January increased to 11,285 people; 2,800 people currently hosted in reception centers, 2590 of them in the regular and 210 in a provisional reception center.

The Italian Minister of Interior, Roberto Maroni, explained that the current influx is mainly composed of Tunisian nationals but that there may be a similar influx from Egypt and/or Libya in the future. He has a meeting scheduled with EU Commissioner Cecilia

Malmström to discuss proposals of a possible involvement of the EU with regards to future influx, including a burden sharing system, a strengthening of FRONTEX and an extraordinary contribution of EUR 100 million to guarantee adequate reception conditions.

Resource Mobilization

So far, UNHCR has received contributions in the amount of USD 31,113,856. UNHCR continues to appeal to donors for cash contributions towards the UNHCR supplementary budget. In addition, IOM and UNHCR continue to appeal for in-kind air donations towards the joint IOM/UNHCR evacuation operation. Given the on-going needs at the border and developments inside Libya, UNHCR is currently revising its budget.

The Regional Inter-Agency Flash Appeal for the Libyan Crisis, requesting total of USD 160.3m for March-June, will be revised by the beginning of April. Currently the appeal is 50% funded.



On the sidewalk of the arrival area of the border post of Saloum, Sudanese citizens are waking up from their sleep after a chilly night./ UNHCR/ F.Noy

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Libyan Arab Jamahiriya and neighbouring countries

Population movements since 20th February 2011

As of 18 March 2011



FIGSS
Field Information and
Coordination Support Section

Sources:
UNHCR, Global Insight digital mapping
© 1998 Europa Technologies Ltd.
Population figures:
IOM / UNHCR Humanitarian
Evacuation Cell

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



- Capital
 - UNHCR Regional Office
 - UNHCR Country Office / National Office / Liaison Office
 - UNHCR Field Unit
 - Refugee camp
 - Asylum-seeker centre
 - Urban refugee location
 - Main town or village
 - Secondary town or village
 - Population movement (border crossing)
 - Air evacuation
 - Crossing point
 - International boundary
 - Main road
 - Secondary road
 - Railway
- Elevation
(Above mean sea level)
- 3,250 to 4,000 metres
 - 2,500 to 3,250 metres
 - 1,750 to 2,500 metres
 - 1,000 to 1,750 metres
 - 750 to 1,000 metres
 - 500 to 750 metres
 - 250 to 500 metres
 - 0 to 250 metres
 - Below mean sea level

