

Update no 27

Humanitarian Situation in Libya and the Neighbouring Countries

3 June 2011

LIBYA

Following the Humanitarian Coordinator's mission last week to Tripoli, six UN representatives from UNHCR, OCHA, IOPM, WFP, UNICEF and UNDESS returned to Tripoli to re-establish a UN presence. The first UN inter-agency mission to Misrata set sail from Benghazi on 31 May and arrived the morning of 1 June. The team spent two days there to conduct assessments in the city and will report on assessed needs upon return to Benghazi. The IOM-chartered ship also contained food for 25,000 people, including 320 metric tons of wheat flour, 60 metric tons of pulses, 30 metric tons of vegetable oil, and 10 metric tons of High Energy Biscuits. The food is being distributed by the Libyan Red Crescent who will focus on the provision of food to vulnerable groups - especially women and children. According to first findings by the mission some 49,000 internally displaced Libyans from Misrata, living around Khums, are in need of humanitarian assistance.

A bomb exploded in the parking lot of the Tibetsy Hotel in Benghazi on the evening of 1 June. There were no casualties or injuries reported, but only damage to vehicles. United Nations staff, diplomats and a number of journalists reside at the hotel.

TUNISIA

It is estimated that there are currently 81,000 Libyans in Tunisia. 99,063 third country nationals have been evacuated from Tunisia with IOM/UNHCR arranged or coordinated flights since the beginning of the crisis.

Djerba, Ras Jdir (Medenine Governorate)

After last week's fire incident, which destroyed more than two thirds of the Choucha camp, UNHCR visited together with the Tunisian army a number of locations further inland from the border in order to relocate the camp. A suitable location has been identified between Zarzis and Ben Guerdan now further from the border. The current plan is two-fold: the old Choucha camp will be re-structured in order to serve as a transit facility for screening of new arrivals and sheltering of third country nationals awaiting evacuation, while the new camp will host asylum seekers and refugees. Consultations with the Tunisian authorities are ongoing to speed up the relocation process.



Most Choucha camp residents currently live in makeshift shelters or in the open air./UNHCR 2011

There are approximately 3,700 people hosted in Ras Jdir camps, including 166 in the IFRC camp and 802 in the UAE camp. Most of the 2,744 Choucha camp residents are currently living in makeshift shelters or in the open air. Almost 3,100 people are of concern to UNHCR, including 1,383 from Somalia, 710 from Eritrea, 440 from Sudan, 237 from Iraq, 178 from Ivory Coast and 176 from Ethiopia.

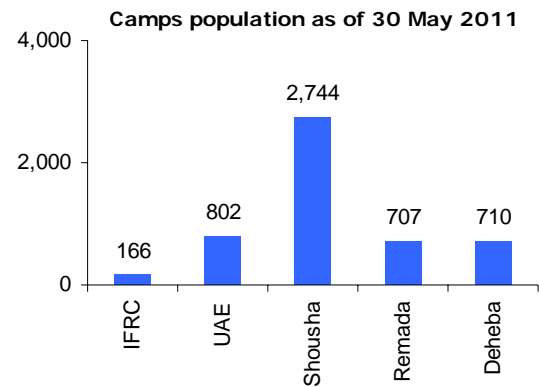
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YEARS



Dehiba, Remada (Tataouine Governorate)

The Dehiba border crossing currently remains under the control of the rebel forces on the Libyan side. 1,418 Libyan refugees are hosted in camps in Tataouine governorate, including 711 people in the UAE camp in Dehiba and another 707 in the UNHCR-run Remada camp. As part of the second round of food distribution for Libyan refugees hosted within the local communities, almost 6,000 food packages were distributed in Tataouine. Another 5,000 food parcels have been ordered. UNHCR has also strengthened its presence in Tataouine by deploying additional international staff on the ground. UNHCR's Director for North Africa and the Middle East paid a visit to Dehiba, Remada and Tataouine to assess the situation and review the needs and gaps in the assistance and protection of Libyan refugees. UNHCR held a meeting with the Major of Tataouine to discuss needs, areas of concentration of refugees and cooperation modalities in order to respond to the immediate needs of the Libyan families, including a possible cash grant to host families, as well as the distribution of food and non-food items.

It is estimated that over 59,000 Libyans are currently hosted by the local communities.



EGYPT

Saloum Border Crossing

It is estimated that since the beginning of the conflict in February 2011, approximately 25,000 Libyans who have entered through Saloum border, currently live in Egypt.

The number of people stranded at the Saloum border area stands at 1,040 persons, of which 776 are registered with UNHCR as of 31 May (455 Sudanese, 104 Eritreans, 82 Ethiopians, 100 Somalis among others). Of these, some 325 have been processed for resettlement.

UNHCR is preparing to take over the provision of meals from WFP after 15 June, and WASH from UNICEF after 30 June as these two UN agencies are phasing out their activities at Saloum.



Distribution of mattresses to refugees and asylum seekers in Saloum. /UNHCR/N. Bose



A total of 35,439 third country nationals have been evacuated from Saloum by IOM and UNHCR since the conflict began in February. Since then, UNHCR has also helped 765 Palestinians stranded in a no man's land to travel to Gaza, through the Rafah border crossing, in Egypt.

A young Iraqi girl cleans the area her family lives in in one of the rub halls in Saloum. /UNHCR/N. Bose

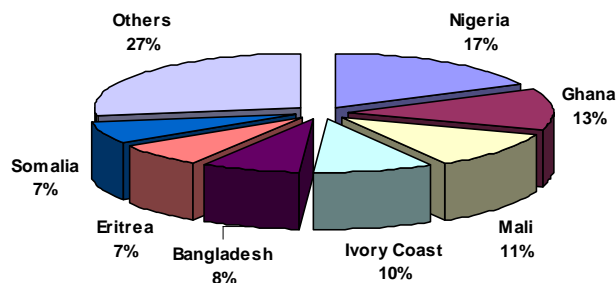
Personal story

In an interview with a UNHCR resettlement officer, a Somali refugee shared his extraordinary story. Separated in an attack from his family when he was 9 years old in 1993, he went to Ethiopia, then Sudan and finally to Benghazi, Libya, to make a life for himself. Seventeen years later, his brother co-incidentally came to Kufra, Libya, not knowing of his brother's existence. Other Somalis told him that his name was the same as someone they knew in Benghazi. The two men met and realised that they were brothers. They have remained together since and fled to Saloum together when the conflict in Libya started.

Movements across the Mediterranean Italy

The total number of new arrivals since mid-January has increased to some 40,677 people. Among them are 24,207 Tunisians and 16,470 other nationalities.

Breakdown of arrivals to Italy (excluding Tunisians)



At least 150 people drowned and scores remain missing in a boat capsizing accident off the Tunisian coast on 1 May. This appears to be one of the worst and the deadliest incidents in the Mediterranean so far this year. The overcrowded boat carried an estimated 850 people mostly from West Africa, Pakistan and Bangladesh. It set sail on 28 May from Libya capital Tripoli and headed for Lampedusa in Italy.

UNHCR's team in Tunisia spoke to some of the survivors who said that the boat was manned by an ad hoc recruited crew with little or no maritime experience. It ran into difficulties soon after departure and experienced problems with steering and power. Effectively lost at sea, by the third day of the journey the passengers ran out of food and water. The boat ultimately ran aground on Wednesday on a sandbank near the Kerkennah islands, some 300 km north-west of Tripoli. Sitting on its keel, the boat was dangerously tilting from one side to the other. It capsized as desperate passengers rushed to one side, seeking immediate rescue by the Tunisian coast guard and fishing boats that approached the troubled vessel. Many fell into the water. There are women and children among the 150 bodies recovered so far. Seven people, including two pregnant women, are receiving intensive care in hospitals in Sfax on mainland Tunisia, about 40 km west of the Kerkennah islands. The rescue operation by Tunisian navy and coast guard is still continuing. Yesterday, 195 survivors were transferred to the IFRC camp near Ras Adjir near Tunisia's border with Libya. Today, another 383 are scheduled to be transported to this and other nearby camps where they will receive counseling and assistance.

Resource Mobilization

UNHCR's requirements for the Libya situation have been revised to USD 80,659,396. So far, UNHCR has received contributions in the amount of USD 48,168,087. Some 40% of the Appeal remains unfunded. Without additional contributions, a critical shortfall of funding for UNHCR's operations in Libya and neighbouring countries is likely to affect vital humanitarian assistance.

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Libyan Arab Jamahiriya and neighbouring countries

As April 2011



FIGSS
Field Information and
Coordination Support Section

Sources:
UNHCR, Global Insight digital mapping
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Population figures:
IOM / UNHCR Humanitarian
Evacuation Cell

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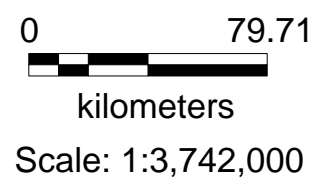
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 - UNHCR Country Office / National Office / Liaison Office
 - UNHCR Field Unit
 - UNHCR Field Office
 - Refugee camp
 - Asylum-seeker centre
 - Urban refugee location
 - Main town or village
 - Secondary town or village
 - Town of Interest
 - Crossing 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



See Google Earth Zoom 4

Mediterranean Sea

LIBYAN ARAB JAMAHIRIYA



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