

# Update no 13 Humanitarian Situation in Libya and the Neighbouring Countries

24 March 2011



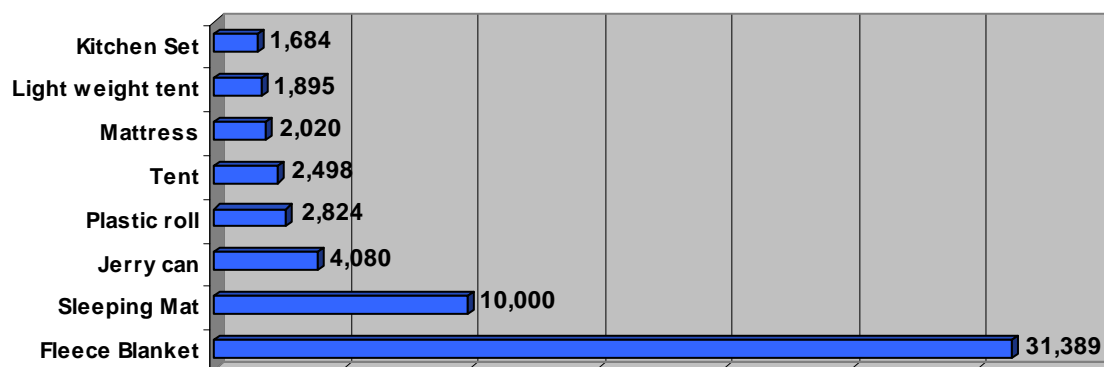
## Highlights

- There continues to be a steady number of Libyans and Third Country Nationals arriving daily to Tunisia and Egypt. A total of 178,262 people have crossed into Tunisia and 147,293 into Egypt up to 23 March. So far, most of the Libyans who crossed the border have not approached UNHCR or local authorities for international protection or humanitarian assistance. However, this might change if the conflict in Libya deteriorates or the resources of Libyans are exhausted. Libyans are allowed to enter Egypt and Tunisia without any restrictions, therefore they do not stay at the border crossings but move immediately onwards.
- UNHCR leads the drafting of inter-agency contingency plans for both Tunisia and Egypt. The plans are preparing for different scenarios and possible population influxes of 40,000 - 250,000 into Tunisia and 50,000 - 600,000 into Egypt, pending on future developments inside Libya. In addition, the Tunisian Ministry of Health and WHO are preparing a health contingency plan to respond to possible arrival of wounded from Libya.
- As of 23 March, the joint IOM/UNHCR Humanitarian Evacuation Cell (HEC) coordinated a total of 285 flights (IOM/UNHCR arranged flights and bi-lateral flights coordinated with HEC). 61,602 people were evacuated, including 54,112 from Tunisia, 7,288 from Egypt and 202 from Algeria. The 'No-Fly Zone' is increasing the costs of humanitarian evacuation flights. Operators are avoiding Libyan airspace and have increased their rates by more than 13% to compensate for the additional flight time and fuel.
- In the context of its ongoing contingency planning, UNHCR continues to stock non-food items in Tunisia and Egypt. Please see the table below for distributed non-food items in Choucha camp, Tunisia, until 23 March.



UNHCR staff receives a shipment of aid in Marsa Matrouh, Egypt, destined for Libya and Saloum. /UNHCR/ P.Moore

**Distribution of non-food items by UNHCR  
in Choucha camp as of 23 March**



60  
YEARS

## Population Movements

By 23 March, a total of 351,673 persons arrived to Tunisia (178,263), Egypt (147,293), Niger (11,949) and Algeria (9,168). In the past days, an increase in arrivals of Third Country Nationals can be observed again, in particular in Tunisia.

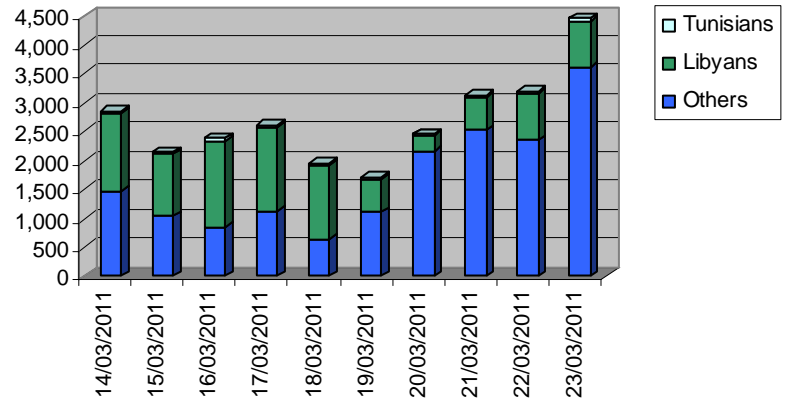
	Arrivals at the border per country	23-Mar
<b>TUNISIA</b>	Tunisians	19,283
	Libyans*	21,877
	Other TCNs	137,103
	<b>Total Tunisia</b>	<b>178,263</b>
<b>EGYPT</b>	Egyptians	77,237
	Libyans*	27,161
	Other TCNs	42895
	<b>Total Egypt</b>	<b>147,293</b>
<b>NIGER**</b>	Nigeriens	11,091
	TCNs	858
	<b>Total Niger</b>	<b>11,949</b>
<b>ALGERIA**</b>	<b>Total Algeria</b>	<b>9,168</b>
<b>CHAD</b>	<b>Total Chad</b>	<b>2,200</b>
<b>SUDAN***</b>	<b>Total Sudan</b>	<b>2,800</b>
<b>COMBINED</b>	<b>OVERALL TOTAL</b>	<b>351,673</b>

\* Includes usual border crossings of commuters, traders etc.

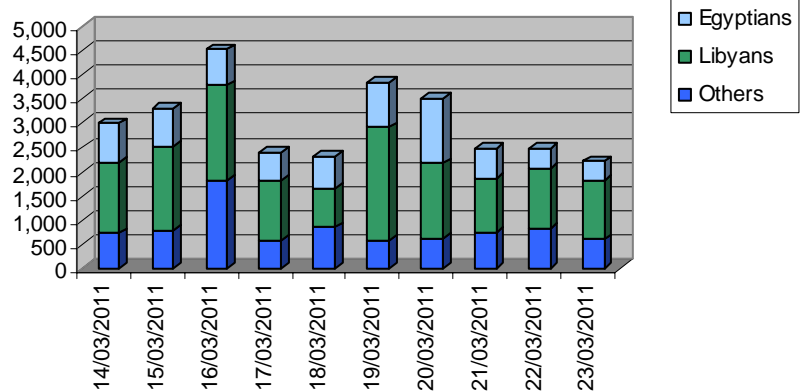
\*\* As of 21 March

\*\*\* Source: OCHA 22 March

Population movement into Tunisia



Population movement into Egypt



## Country Updates

### LIBYA

The security situation remains critical. Due to recent security developments, UNHCR registered refugees and asylum seekers face difficulties in moving inside Tripoli even during the day. Staff from the UNHCR office in Tripoli has received over 1,300 phone calls from refugees, asylum seekers and their relatives through the 24/7 emergency hotline. The medical team has provided medicines and counseling to 126 of them and UNHCR's implementing partner has identified a total of 508 families and 191 single refugees and asylum seekers in need of urgent financial assistance and food support.

Reports on internal displacement continue, although it has been difficult to verify the extent. The Libyan Red Cross and local authorities are assisting arrivals with temporary accommodation. However, reportedly medical services are overwhelmed and medical supplies are lacking.

UNHCR provided the Libyan Red Cross with 500 blankets, 500 kitchen sets, 520 sleeping mats, 500

jerry cans and 500 plastic sheets to be distributed to vulnerable persons in eastern Libya.

The UN is striving to re-establish a presence in the east and west of the country as soon as arrangements for the security of humanitarian operations are agreed with all parties.

### TUNISIA

**Choucha Transit camp:** On 22 March, 7,716 people were staying in the camp, mainly from Sudan (2,076), Bangladesh (1,940), Somalia (856), Mali (709), Nigeria (389) and Eritrea (342). The camp population slightly increased again in the past days.

**UAE Red Crescent camp (est. capacity 1,400):** On 22 March, 809 persons were staying in the camp, including 441 from Sudan, 199 from Egypt and 70 from Eritrea.

#### • Protection

On 23 March, a total of 1,248 persons of concern to UNHCR were at the border. 316 cases were already

registered with UNHCR in Libya prior to their entry to Tunisia.

UNHCR held further meetings with the Somali refugee community in Choucha camp to discuss the benefits of relocating families to the UAE camp, including better security and family-friendly spaces. However, the Somalis continue showing reluctance in fear of losing contact with UNHCR. UNHCR established a presence in the UAE camp to conduct screening and other protection activities.

As men constitute the overwhelming majority of the camp population (over 95%), the protection situation of women in the camp remains a concern. Various incidents of sexual harassment of female residents have been reported. UNHCR is working on reducing the risk of SGBV incidents.

#### • Contingency Planning

UNHCR held a meeting with the Governor of Medinne to discuss host community projects as well as contingency planning. They handed UNHCR a list of projects in order to alleviate the burden on the local community.

## EGYPT

**Egyptian border with Libya (Saloum border crossing):** On 23 March, a total of 2,215 persons entered into Egypt through Saloum, including 406 Egyptians, 1,213 Libyans and 596 Third Country Nationals.

The Chadian community is currently the largest third country national population in the port and tensions aroused due to a delay in the documentation process. UNHCR and IOM have stepped up their efforts to evacuate Chadian and a potential 1,051 Chadian will potentially be evacuated in the coming days, pending their valid documentation.

#### • Humanitarian assistance

WHO provided medical treatment to 300 patients at the clinic. WFP is planning a provision of 2,000 cooked meals per day. The Egyptian Red Crescent

plans to take over the food distribution once they have recruited sufficient staff.

## ITALY

**Arrivals to Lampedusa:** The total number of new arrivals since mid-January increased to 15,798 people, 14,133 of them are of Tunisian nationality. A total of 4,183 persons are still in Lampedusa, some 2,500 of them on the dock and 260 minors at a special facility. The reception conditions have further deteriorated, in particular regarding the hygienic conditions on the dock, where there are only 4 toilets, no mattresses and no blankets.

The Ministry of Interior, together with other authorities, is finalizing an emergency plan for 50,000 arrivals from Libya until June 2011. The plan includes the dispersing of new arrivals to various Italian regions. UNHCR had a meeting with the Director of the department for Civil Liberties and Immigration during which UNHCR reaffirmed the necessity for speedy transfers from Lampedusa and to provide adequate and specific treatment and follow-up for all new arrivals. The Minister of Interior of Italy is scheduled to visit Tunisia on 25 March.

#### Resource Mobilization

UNHCR has revised its Supplementary Budget for the Libya Situation, which now has a total need of USD 65,700,000. So far, UNHCR has received contributions in the amount of USD 32,134,376; hence it is 49% funded. UNHCR continues to appeal to donors for cash contributions towards the UNHCR supplementary budget. In addition, IOM and UNHCR still to seek support for in-kind air donations towards the joint IOM/UNHCR evacuation operation.

The Regional Inter-Agency Flash Appeal for the Libyan Crisis, requesting total of USD 160.3m for March-June, may be revised by the beginning of April. Currently the appeal is 62% funded. A delay in the revision of the Flash Appeal is due to the inability to access Libya and to perform the necessary needs assessment.



A UNHCR officer talks with Somali workers as they queue to register at Choucha camp. /UNHCR/ A. Branthwaite

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