



UNHCR's partner LibAid distributes school bags to internally displaced children at the Airport road IDP camp and the Falah IDP Camp. 20 September, 2015/LibAid

HIGHLIGHTS

| | | |
|---|---|---|
| <p>435,000 Internally displaced persons in various regions of Libya (Sept. 2015)</p> | <p>8,000 Detained persons received medical assistance and relief items in 2015</p> | <p>60,000 IDPs received humanitarian aid in 2015</p> |
|---|---|---|

Population of concern

A total of **471,853** persons of concern

Refugees and Asylum-Seekers

| Country | Total |
|---------------------|---------------|
| Eritrea | 4,687 |
| Iraq | 3,105 |
| Palestine | 5,300 |
| Somalia | 2,392 |
| Sudan | 2,123 |
| Syria | 18,710 |
| Other nationalities | 667 |
| TOTAL | 36,984 |

Internally displaced persons by region

Numbers are based on estimates (source: Local Councils and NGOs)

| Region | Total IDPs |
|----------------|----------------|
| Western Libya | 231,956 |
| Eastern Libya | 158,182 |
| Southern Libya | 44,731 |
| Total | 434,869 |

UNHCR presence

Staff:

30 national staff, 6 international staff

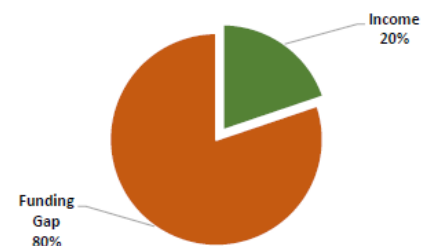
Offices:

2 offices: Tripoli and Benghazi

Map of Libya



Funding



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WORKING WITH PARTNERS

UNHCR leads the Protection Working Group, which coordinates protection activities and humanitarian responses by all actors in Libya. UNHCR also chairs the Detention Sub-working Group, which serves as an advocacy platform for alternatives to detention for refugees and asylum-seekers, particularly women and children. UNHCR also leads the Shelter/Non-food items (NFI) sector in Libya. UNHCR, represented by partner CESVI, also participates in the IDP Working Group for Benghazi, which coordinates IDP data/NFI for national/international organizations established in Benghazi. The UN Country Team in Libya continues to work from Tunis as a result of the evacuation of international staff in July 2014. UNHCR works closely with partners for implementation of programme activities through remote management.

MAIN ACTIVITIES

Protection

With a view to expand the protection space in Libya, protection assistance to persons of concern is implemented through adapted modalities to ensure continuity in delivery of assistance. Prioritized areas are border monitoring, registration, provision of cash and core relief items, medical assistance, advocacy for alternatives to detention and saving lives in the context of mixed migration. Through expanded community outreach UNHCR will detect and reduce protection risks faced by persons of concern, in particular sexual and gender-based violence, through support to community-based protection mechanisms, development of referral mechanisms and awareness-raising. UNHCR's core protection activities include:

- Conduct regular protection monitoring to identify, register and document persons in need of international protection.
- Provide assistance to refugees such as education, health, psychosocial counselling, financial assistance and legal assistance, through partners CESVI and International Medical Corps (IMC).
- Identify and provide support individuals with heightened protection risks, including unaccompanied minors, victims of trafficking and other extremely vulnerable individuals who have entered Libya using irregular channels or were rescued/intercepted at sea.
- Train government officials and other actors on core protection principles and refugee law in the context of mixed-migration.
- Advocate with Libyan authorities to improve detention conditions, adopt protection-sensitive approaches, *non-refoulement*.
- Monitor the protection situation in areas hosting internally displaced populations across the country.

Humanitarian Assistance

Thus far in 2015, UNHCR provided humanitarian assistance to 60,000 persons of concern. UNHCR and partners provide assistance through three community development centres, which have received over 5,000 individuals, despite limited freedom of movement in most parts of the country. UNHCR carries out protection monitoring in detention centres; over 8,000 individuals in detention received medical assistance and relief items. UNHCR's nine emergency hotlines provide easily accessible information for refugees and asylum-seekers and counselling on protection services including on the limitations of registration under the circumstances, community services, and access to assistance for persons of concern who have been arrested due to lack of documentation.

Mixed migration flows towards the Mediterranean continue unabated through trafficking networks and smuggling routes where refugees/asylum-seekers move alongside migrants. UNHCR interventions include the operation of a 24/7 emergency hotline for refugees and asylum-seekers in Tripoli and Benghazi where counselling is provided on the risks of irregular sea migration and coping mechanisms; remote monitoring exercises of nine detention centres to track detention trends, monitor conditions and to assess needs; and, continued involvement in rescue at sea interventions through an alert system with the Libyan coast guard.

Durable Solutions

- UNHCR promotes and facilitates durable solutions, including resettlement, family reunification and voluntary repatriation for vulnerable refugees and asylum-seekers at risk, such as unaccompanied children and female-headed households.
- UNHCR supports the reconciliation process so IDPs may be able to return to their habitual place of residence.

Priorities and Challenges

- Ensuring safe humanitarian access in Libya and respond to humanitarian needs on the ground remains a priority for UNHCR.
- Refugees and asylum-seekers stranded in Libya may try to seek asylum elsewhere should violence escalate. UNHCR hopes that neighbouring countries keep land borders open to those fleeing violence and seeking international protection.

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