



LIBYA OPERATION

UNHCR UPDATE

02 - 08 June 2017

OPERATIONAL UPDATE

The German Foreign Minister visited Tripoli this week accompanied by the Special Representative of the Secretary-General, the International Organization for Migration (IOM) and UNHCR. During the visit, Germany pledged EUR 3.5 million (US\$ 3.9 million) to help improve conditions for refugees in Libya. UNHCR's Supplementary Appeal for US\$75.5 million aims to meet the increased humanitarian and protection needs of people in Libya, focusing on refugees and asylum seekers as well as IDPs and host communities. The appeal is for activities including protection monitoring and advocacy, access to basic services, asylum procedures, freedom of movement and solutions.

RESPONSE UPDATE

From January to May 2017, 6,243 refugees and migrants, mainly from Morocco, Bangladesh, Nigeria and Mali, were rescued/intercepted at sea by the Libyan Coast Guard (LCG). Around 60% of the rescued individuals were disembarked at the Azzawiya disembarkation point and 30% in Tripoli. Over the same period, at least 331 bodies were recovered from the sea. On 5 June, UNHCR and partner International Medical Corps provided primary health care, refreshments and hygiene kits to a group of 107 people intercepted/rescued at sea and disembarked near Al Khums. The group included Eritrean, Ethiopian, Somali and Sudanese nationals. UNHCR and IMC are yet to locate the detention centre the group was transferred to following disembarkation.

As a result of the security situation in Tripoli, lower numbers of refugees and asylum seekers approached UNHCR Community Development Centres. During the reporting week, 413 individuals were counselled or assisted, compared to a usual weekly average of 790 individuals. The majority were Syrian, Sudanese and Palestinian refugees and asylum-seekers. Their main needs related to health care and cash grants.

Initial assessments for UNHCR and partner Mercy Corps Quick Impact Projects (QIPs) benefiting refugees, IDPs and host communities are planned for mid-June, with the first project scheduled to start in July 2017. QIPs are community-based small scale projects with high strategic impact aimed at enhancing the protection space, strengthening access to persons of concern and supporting host communities. Twelve pilot QIPs are planned in 2017.

UNHCR continues efforts to identify durable solutions for refugees in Libya. With regard to voluntary repatriation, so far in 2017, UNHCR assisted the voluntary return of five Iraqi refugees and was approached by five Sudanese asylum-seekers willing to return to Sudan. As for resettlement, UNHCR has submitted 34 cases (59 individuals) to resettlement countries so far in 2017. Of these submissions, 37 individuals have been accepted by Canada, Norway and Sweden. In 2017, one Syrian family of five were resettled to Norway and one young Syrian refugee to Sweden; an additional six refugees are expected to be resettled to Canada. Resettlement is used by UNHCR in Libya as a protection tool for the most vulnerable cases. UNHCR aims to submit 60 cases (approx. 150 individuals) to resettlement countries in 2017. For both voluntary repatriation and resettlement, UNHCR and IOM work together to assist refugees with obtaining travel documents, exit visas and departures to their destination countries.

HUMANITARIAN ACCESS

While access of international staff to Libya remains restricted under the current UN evacuation status, UNHCR international staff continue to conduct regular missions to Tripoli to support interventions by national staff. UNHCR and other humanitarian agencies are currently exploring the potential use of United Nations Humanitarian Air Service (UNHAS) and/or commercial flights from Tunisia to Tripoli, given the current limited passenger capacity on United Nations flights departing from Tunis.

KEY FIGURES

256,615 Libyans currently internally displaced persons (IDPs)¹

227,866 returned IDPs (returns registered in 2017)¹

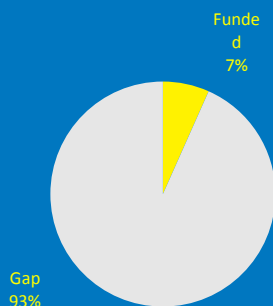
41,319 registered refugees and asylum-seekers in Libya

61,165 persons arriving in Italy by sea so far in 2017²

1,385 sea rescue kits distributed so far in 2017

FUNDING

USD 75.5 million required for IDPs and refugees in Libya in 2017



¹ OIM-DTM as of 08/06/2017

² data2.unhcr.org as of 08/06/2017