

KEY FIGURES

12,000 IDPs

received humanitarian aid in Libya

2 million people

risking food and medical supply shortages if fighting continues in Libya

140,000 IDPs

in Libya

105,000 people

(migrants, refugees and asylum-seekers) reported to have left Libya on boat this year

PRIORITIES

- Assess humanitarian needs of refugees, asylum-seekers and IDPs
- Provide counselling support and share information through UNHCR's hotlines in Libya
- Facilitate access into Libya in order to carry out planned activities and assistance on the ground
- Ensure that neighbouring countries keep borders open to those fleeing violence and seeking international protection

LIBYA CRISIS

UNHCR REGIONAL UPDATE

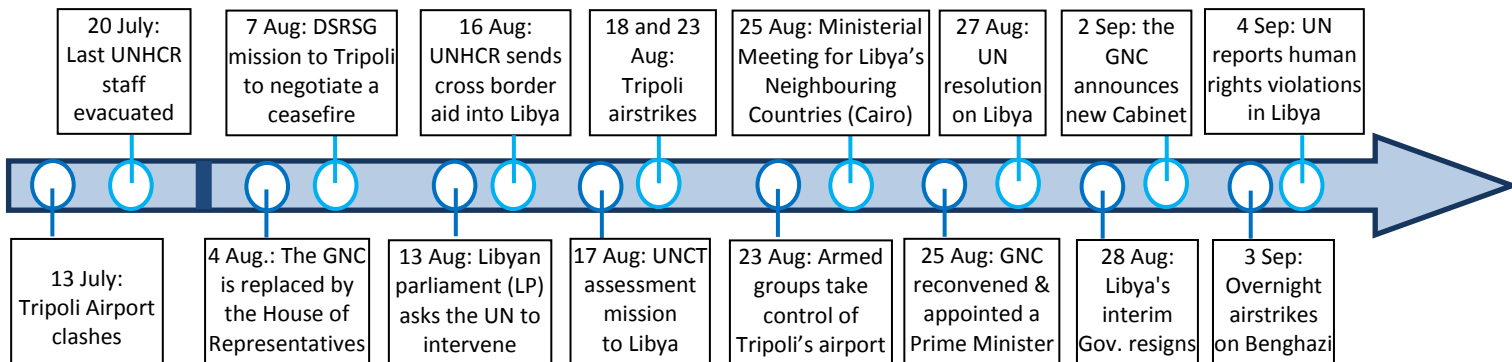
8 – 14 September 2014

LATEST DEVELOPMENTS

- The UNHCR-funded Community Development Centre in Tripoli has re-opened on 11 September with the resumption of work by CESVI (Italian INGO) and the International Medical Corps (IMC). The centre provides healthcare, financial assistance and social counseling to refugees and asylum-seekers.
- The Libya UN Country Team will meet with donors, on 19 September in Tunis, to present the Libya Humanitarian Appeal. The UN has requested 33.4 million dollars to respond to the growing needs of communities affected by the current crisis in Libya.
- The new UN Envoy to Libya, Special Representative of the Secretary-General (SRSG) Leon Bernardino, visited Libya on 8 September to affirm UN support to the elected government and parliament and assist them in finding a political solution to the crisis. During the 4-day visit, the SRSG met with both parties of the conflict in Tobruk and Tripoli, and all sides initially agreed to end armed hostilities. However, despite the political agreement, fighting continues in the western part of Tripoli and in Benghazi.
- The SRSG briefed the UN Security Council on 15 September following his visit to Libya and warned about a protracted conflict and strife. He also highlighted UNHCR's work in dispatching the first humanitarian convoy to assist some 12,000 displaced people in western town of Zuwara.
- Three shipwrecks occurred off the coast of Libya on 13 to 14 September. The Libyan Coast Guards were able to rescue 180 survivors, but more than 300 people are reportedly dead or missing.

UPDATE

Timeline of Main Events



LIBYA

Security and political update

- With rising tensions between the two rival governments, Prime Minister Al-Thanni in Tobruk ruled out any negotiations with Operation Dawn forces. On 15 September, Libyan army planes bombed a reported Libyan Dawn military depot in Gharyan, southwest of Tripoli.
- In Benghazi, fierce fighting continues near Benina airport and near the Bu Atny, Sidi Faraj and Sidi Mansour areas. There have been reports of over 19 people killed in fighting on 14 September and continuing assassinations in Benghazi.

Identification of Needs

Internally displaced people

- Rival militias continue armed attacks near the Warshefana tribal area (approximately 25 km southwest of Tripoli). The fighting has caused a new wave of displacement. NGOs report that approximately 87,000 people (14,500 families) have been displaced, of which a majority have settled in Tarhouna, Gharyan and Zintan. The main hospital in the area, Al-Zahra Hospital, reports severe shortage of medical supplies due to roadblocks preventing delivery of food and medical supplies into the conflict affected area.
- UNHCR is in contact with the local authorities, Benghazi local council, to assess and assist some 100 vulnerable families displaced because of the fighting. This group is in need of accommodation, they are currently sheltered in schools that are scheduled to open in the coming weeks.

Asylum-seekers, Refugees and other Persons of Concern

- On behalf of UNHCR, IMC and local partner NGO, Taher Al-Zawi, conducted a health-monitoring visit to Zawiya immigration detention centre on 10 September. The visit was undertaken upon request from detention officials and the goal was to assess over 250 detainees' need of assistance such as food, clothes and non-food items (NFIs).
- On behalf of UNHCR, IMC, visited the Al-Gowaa immigration detention centre where around 100 people are detained as of 10 September. UNHCR and IMC will distribute hygiene kits and other core relief items to the centre when security permits.
- Persons of concerns who are unable to register with UNHCR in Benghazi, due to temporary suspension of registration activities, continue to approach UNHCR's partner CESVI requesting financial assistance. The majority of them are Palestinians affected by the ongoing conflict in Benghazi. As of 14 September, there are over 250 families who have requested assistance. UNHCR is working with CESVI to assess the most vulnerable.
- UNHCR continues to operate five emergency hotlines for persons of concern affected by the fighting. In Benghazi, the hotline received approximately 30 – 50 calls weekly with requests for registration and relocation.

Humanitarian Assistance Responses

- The UNHCR-funded Community Development Centre in Tripoli re-opened on 11 September with the resumption of work by CESVI (Italian international NGO) and IMC. The centre provides healthcare, financial assistance and social counseling to refugees and asylum-seekers.
- UNHCR facilitated the weekly protection working group meeting on 10 September among Libyan-based NGOs and UN agencies temporarily relocated to Tunisia. Topics for discussion were the current displacement in Benghazi and Tripoli, protection at sea, immigration detention centres, and refugees, asylum-seekers and migrants stranded in conflict areas.
- Since the eruption of fighting in Tripoli on 13 July, UNHCR Libya has facilitated the evacuation of an unaccompanied child for family reunification in Malta, and the departure of two families for resettlement in Canada. UNHCR is working with other UNHCR offices in Europe and the Resettlement Hub for evacuation and resettlement of six additional persons. There are other vulnerable individuals and families identified in need of emergency relocations.

Mixed Migration Challenges

- UNHCR and ICRC coordinated a rescue operation for two boats that departed from Benghazi on 12 September heading towards Italy. UNHCR Italy coordinated the rescue efforts with the Italian navy.
- UNHCR learned of at least five boats heading to Europe from Benghazi during the reporting period. A majority of passengers on board were Syrians and Palestinians.
- UNHCR learned of daily boat departures from western ports in Tripoli, reports indicate that a majority of those on board were Syrians.
- The Libyan Coast Guard reported three shipwrecks during 13 to 14 September with an estimated 340 people dead or missing. The shipwrecks were found near Garabouli and Tajoura east of Tripoli.
- UNHCR reported that around 118,000 people have arrived in Italy since January 2014, of whom more than 105,000 have departed from Libya. So far, over 2,500 people have died while trying to cross the Mediterranean this year.

TUNISIA

Border Movement and Access to Asylum

- Some 48,000 people entered Tunisia from Libya during the reporting period (8-14 September). This represents a daily average of 6,800 people entering Tunisia through official border points with Libya (Ras Jedir and Dehiba).
- All people holding valid travel documents and a transit visa, flight ticket, or arrangements with respective embassies are admitted into Tunisian territory. All Libyans were admitted so far.
- UNHCR is registering refugees and asylum-seekers in Tunisia. This includes persons of concern to UNHCR arriving by land or rescued at sea. UNHCR is conducting Refugee Status Determination in Tunisia.

Prepositioning Humanitarian Assistance

- The Shelter Working Group finalized the list of all public buildings that can potentially host refugees and asylum-seekers in case of outflow from Libya in Medenine and Tataouine governorates.
- UNHCR in southern Tunisia continue to closely link with local authorities and other agencies.

Contingency Plan and Coordination

- UNHCR facilitated and participated in a three-day workshop on sexual and gender-based violence in humanitarian situation. United Nations Population Fund (UNFPA), IOM, UNICEF and UNHCR organized the workshop jointly on 9-11 September in Zarzis
- UNHCR and the Tunisian Red Crescent (TRC) met with community representatives in Medenine dormitories to establish a new management system. They established schedules for food distribution, medical visits and counselling sessions and agreed on internal rules for the dormitory.

EGYPT

Border Movement and Access to Asylum

- During the reporting period, a total of 1,250 Egyptians and 1,520 Libyans crossed into Egypt. 44 Sudanese, 28 Vietnamese and five Sri Lankans crossed the border and continued to Cairo International Airport.
- As of 14 September, there were around 95 people stranded at the border including Sudanese, Nigerian, Syrian, Tanzanian, Jordanian and Palestinian nationals.

Humanitarian Assistance

- UNHCR continues to advocate for permission to provide water and food to people stranded at the border.
- The Egyptian army continues to provide medical services and food for Egyptian nationals.