



LIBYA OPERATION

UNHCR UPDATE

26 June – 5 July 2017

OPERATIONAL UPDATE

On 1 July, High Commissioner Filippo Grandi [urged](#) more solidarity with Italy in responding to the humanitarian situation in the Central Mediterranean. He stressed that saving lives remains a top priority and that search and rescue by all those involved, including by NGOs, the Italian Coast Guard, and government authorities, is critical. As of 31 May 2017, Libyan Coast Guard rescued/intercepted at sea 6,243 refugees and migrants, who were then disembarked in Libya. So far in 2017, 331 bodies were recovered off the Libyan shores, presumably of people who drowned while attempting to cross the Mediterranean sea.

UNHCR, together with partners Altai and Impact, presented in Geneva and Brussels the [report](#) '*Mixed Migration Trends in Libya: Changing Dynamics and Protection Challenges*'. According to the study, the overall number of refugees and migrants in Libya has not significantly decreased in recent years. Profiles and nationalities of arrivals in Libya have evolved in the past years, with a decrease from East Africa but an increase from West Africa. Almost all refugees and migrants coming to Libya seek the help of smugglers or criminal networks, to the exception of seasonal migrants from Sudan, Niger and Chad. Libya remains by far the preferred departure point for refugees and migrants from Africa to Europe, yet it is particularly unsafe. Trafficking for sexual exploitation seems to be on the rise and so is the number of Unaccompanied and Separated Children (UASC), who now represent 14% of total arrivals in Europe through the Central Mediterranean Route.

UNHCR continues to maintain a dialogue with authorities at all levels in order to expand presence and address humanitarian needs of Libyan IDPs, host communities, refugees and asylum seekers especially in the South.

RESPONSE UPDATE

UNHCR [resettled](#) a group of vulnerable refugee women. On 4 July, UNHCR facilitated the resettlement of six refugee women from Libya to a third country. Another seven women are expected to be resettled in the coming days. These women are part of a group who was kept in servitude by an armed group in Libya and suffered horrific abuse; they were then detained by Libyan authorities. UNHCR successfully advocated for their release and transferred them to a safe house, before facilitating their resettlement. IOM facilitated their departure with logistics, including exit visa and tickets. UNHCR continues to work on emergency resettlement procedures for other urgent vulnerable cases.

UNHCR and partner International Medical Corps (IMC) visited Karareem, Al Khoms, Triq al Sika, Al Nasr and Zliten and Surman detention centres in western Libya, assisting over 590 individuals with primary health care, NFIs and protection referrals. On 5 July, upon the request of authorities, UNHCR distributed blankets, sleeping mats, hygiene kits and other NFIs to 330 individuals transferred by authorities from Mitiga detention centre to Triq al Sika detention centre. The distribution, as well as regular visits to detention centers, allows UNHCR to identify refugees and asylum seekers amongst the detainees and to advocate for their release.

UNHCR and IMC continue to monitor the health situation in Triq al Sika detention center, where UNHCR, IOM and their partners coordinated an anti-scabies campaign last week. The spread of scabies among detainees was contained. UNHCR and IOM work closely together in detention facilities, as they held refugees and asylum seekers as well as migrants. UNHCR participated in a training of IOM staff to strengthen the referral mechanisms between the two organisations.

KEY FIGURES

240,188 Libyans currently internally displaced (IDPs)¹

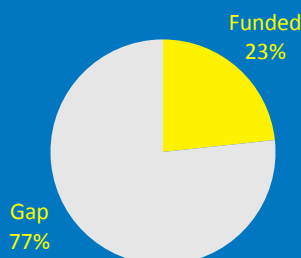
249,298 returned IDPs (returns registered in 2017)¹

42,028 registered refugees and asylum-seekers in Libya

84,885 persons have arrived in Italy by sea so far in 2017²

FUNDING

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



¹ OIM-DTM as of 29/06/2017

² data2.unhcr.org as of 06/07/2017