



LIBYA OPERATION

UNHCR UPDATE

9-15 June 2017

OPERATIONAL UPDATE

UNHCR and the International Organization for Migration (IOM) condemned the abuse of smuggled refugees and asylum seekers in Libya, following the publication online of a video in which hundreds of emaciated and abused Somalis and Ethiopians were seen clustered in a concrete room. UNHCR expressed its concern about the plight of these asylum seekers and called for their immediate release in collaboration with the Libyan authorities.

In June, the Security Council is expected to receive a briefing from the Special Representative of the Secretary-General (SRSG) and head of the UN Support Mission in Libya (UNSMIL), Martin Kobler. Mr. Kobler has indicated that his term as SRSG will end in June. The Secretary General has proposed Ghassan Salame of Lebanon as his replacement. Also, the Council is expected to renew the mandate of the Panel of Experts assisting the 1970 Libya Sanctions Committee and UNSMIL, which expires on 31 July and 15 September, respectively.

RESPONSE UPDATE

Six sectors have been activated for the response to the humanitarian situation in Libya including Health, Protection, Shelter & Non Food Items (NFI), WASH, Food Security, and Education. UNHCR leads the Shelter & NFI Sector Working Group, the Protection Sector Working Group and the Cash and Markets Working Group (under Inter Sector Coordination). UNHCR also co-leads the Mixed Migration Sector Working Group with IOM. In this coordination role, UNHCR reviews strategies developed by the sectors and/or working groups and aligns the strategies with needs assessments. Additionally, it undertakes advocacy with donors for funding of planned activities on behalf of members of sectors and/or working groups.

The Protection Sector Working Group is finalising the 2017-18 Protection Sector Strategy, to be shared with the Libya Humanitarian Country Team this month. The Cash and Markets Working Group produces guidance and policy papers to support the development of cash-based interventions across the six sectors. A revision of the Shelter & NFI Sector strategy is also ongoing and will integrate Cash-Based Interventions (CBI), as well as community-based assistance given the dire needs of host communities in Libya.

UNHCR and International Medical Corps (IMC) provided humanitarian and medical assistance to 826 refugees and migrants rescued/intercepted at sea and disembarked at Azzawiya and Al Khums. The most vulnerable rescued individuals were provided with 220 rescue kits and 199 medical consultations. A total of 157 refugees and asylum seekers, mainly from Eritrea, Sudan, Ethiopia, Syria and Somalia were identified by IMC. The group was then transferred by authorities to detention centres (DCs). UNHCR is advocating for their release with the authorities.

The stable security situation in Tripoli permitted an increase in the number of refugees and asylum-seekers assisted by UNHCR, IMC and CESVI at the two Community Development Centres (CDCs). Hence, 939 refugees and asylum seekers were provided with medical consultations, hygiene kits, cash grants, issuance of new documentation, renewal of documentation and registration. Meanwhile, the first 'Young Mothers Club' meeting was held by UNHCR and CESVI at the Gurji CDC. A total of 11 women including Syrians, Palestinians, Somalis and Sudanese participated in the initiative. The objective of the club is to improve awareness among young mothers of the potential challenges and solutions relating to early marriage.

HUMANITARIAN ACCESS

UNHCR's expansion of activities in the South of Libya has not yet received the approval of Libyan authorities. The authorities have requested more information on planned activities, and the UNHCR senior Emergency Coordinator will undertake a mission to Libya this week to discuss the expansion plans with authorities and provide additional information as requested.

KEY FIGURES

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

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

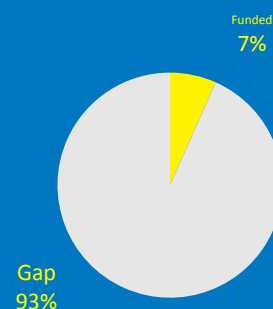
41,319 registered refugees and asylum-seekers in Libya

65,342 persons arriving in Italy by sea so far in 2017²

1,605 sea rescue/hygiene 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 15/06/2017