

# LIBYA

27 Oct. - 2 Nov. 2017

## Key figures

**204,458** Libyans currently internally displaced (IDPs)<sup>1</sup>

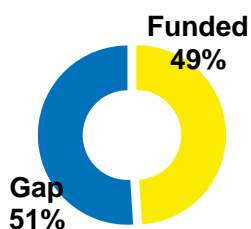
**301,988** returned IDPs (returns registered in 2017)<sup>1</sup>

**43,608** registered refugees and asylum-seekers in Libya

**116,600** persons arrived in Italy by sea so far in 2017<sup>2</sup>

## Funding

USD **75.5** M requested in 2017



<sup>1</sup> IOM-DTM August 2017

<sup>2</sup> data2.unhcr.org as of 31 October 2017

## Population Movements

**As of 31 October, 12,987 refugees and migrants were rescued/intercepted at sea by the Libyan Coast Guard (LCG).** This figure is slightly higher than the data recorded during the same period in 2016 (12,775 refugees and migrants). The number of rescues/interceptions at sea substantially decreased in October 2017 (615 individuals) when compared to data registered in September (1,780 individuals) and August (1,741 individuals) most likely as a consequence of recent events in Sabratha. Although 79% of individuals rescued/intercepted were men, UNHCR continued to observe an increase in the number of women (12%) and children (9%) when compared to the overall trend of preceding months. In October, West African nationals (such as Nigerians, Malians and Guineans) remained amongst the top nationalities, however, a group of Eritrean and Sudanese refugees were also disembarked in Libya. The latest rescue/interception operation was conducted by the LCG on 31 October, when 301 individuals from Mali, Guinea and Senegal were disembarked in Tripoli. The group included 31 women, 15 children and 253 men. UNHCR and IMC were present at the disembarkation point and provided hygiene kits and medical assistance.

## UNHCR Response

**Following the discovery of thousands held captive in Sabratha, there are currently more than 17,771 refugees and migrants are detained in Libya, of whom more than 1,578 are persons of concern to UNHCR.** UNHCR staff continue to be present in ten locations (including detention centres and the Dahman assembly point in Sabratha) and have so far delivered medical assistance and more than 20 trucks of humanitarian aid. UNHCR continues to monitor daily arrivals in the Dahman assembly point, as authorities estimate that another 6,000 refugees and migrants, including many women and children, are still being held by smugglers. UNHCR teams have reported critical needs to identify immediate solutions, including appropriate nutrition to infants and young children. In addition, they are prioritising the identification of refugees and asylum seekers and advocating for their release from detention. So far in 2017, 918 refugees have been released from detention following UNHCR's advocacy efforts.

**Together with the International Organization for Migration (IOM), the UNHCR Representative undertook a four day mission to Benghazi with a view to supporting internally displaced persons (IDPs).** Both UN Agencies met with the Mayor of Benghazi to discuss needs and assistance for IDPs, returnees and host communities. Some 100,000 IDPs are living in and around Benghazi and remain in need of humanitarian assistance, including shelter, food, health and sanitation. Many are exposed to explosive remnants of war. UNHCR handed over a contribution of medical supplies and core relief items (CRIs) to local authorities. In the upcoming days, UNHCR partner LibAid will distribute assistance targeting 2,000 IDP and returnee families in Benghazi. These families have been displaced for more than three years and are returning to areas that have been heavily affected by conflict. In addition, UNHCR will set up a number of quick impact projects targeting the education and water and sanitation sectors in coordination with authorities and partners. During their mission, UNHCR and IOM visited a Tawergha IDP settlement and assessed shelter, health and education needs. UNHCR will conduct a distribution of CRIs targeting 500 Tawergha IDP families living in and around Benghazi.