

KEY FIGURES

12,000 IDPs

received humanitarian aid in Libya

2 million people

risk food and medical supply shortages if fighting continues in Libya

100,500 people

arrived in Italy since January 2014, most departed from Libya

100 people

approached UNHCR to seek international protection

PRIORITIES

- Access to people stranded in conflict zones to provide humanitarian aid, including refugees, asylum-seekers and IDPs
- Provide counseling support and share information through UNHCR's hotlines

LIBYA SITUATION

UNHCR REGIONAL UPDATE

10 – 17 August 2014

HIGHLIGHTS

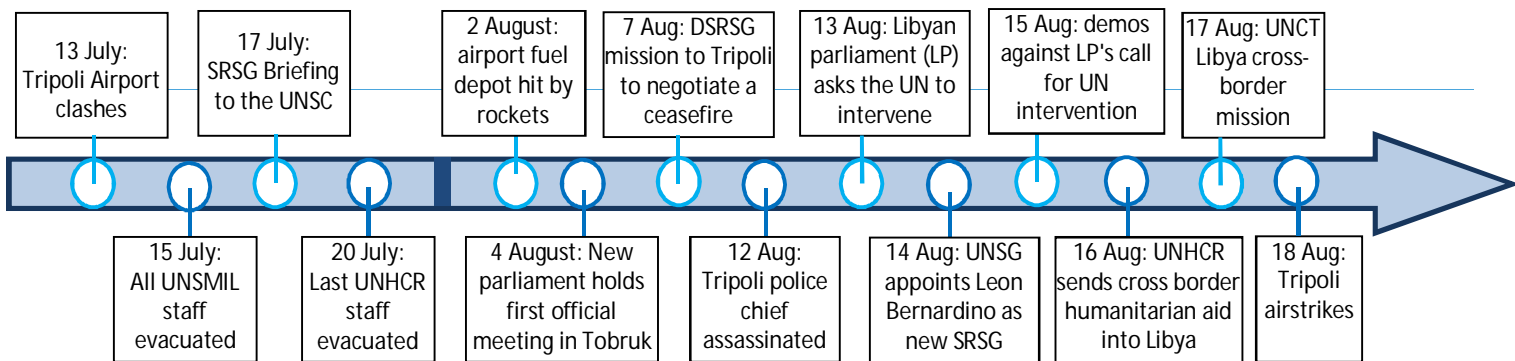
- On 16 August, UNHCR and its partners sent a two-truck convoy from Tunisia to deliver humanitarian aid to 12,000 people recently displaced by the ongoing fighting in Tripoli. The distribution took place in Zawiyah (west of Tripoli).
- UNHCR participated in a UNCT cross-border mission to assess the situation on the Libyan side of the Ras Jdir border and the protection needs of internally displaced people (IDPs) in Zuwara.
- Tripoli and its residents have become increasingly isolated with the establishment of militia checkpoints to the west and south of the city, making movement difficult. The capital is facing continuous fuel and electricity shortage, disrupting services and the distribution of basic goods and supplies.
- According to International Federation of Red Cross and Red Crescent Societies (IFRC), at least 2 million people may be at risk of food and medical supply shortages if the fighting continues in Libya.
- With the deterioration of the security situation, many persons of concern to UNHCR continue to consider sea crossings as the only way to escape violence. Since January 2014, around 100,500 people have arrived in Italy. More than 90 per cent departed from Libya.
- UNHCR established a presence at Ras Jdir border point in Tunisia. Since the beginning of the current crisis, there are estimates that more than 200,000 people has crossed into neighbouring Tunisia and Egypt. The majority are Libyan and third country nationals (mainly Egyptians). Less than 100 people have approached UNHCR to seek international protection.
- The next meeting of Foreign Ministers of Libya's neighboring countries is scheduled to take place at the end of August in Cairo.

UPDATE ON ACHIEVEMENTS

Operational Context - Libya

- The security situation in Tripoli is critical with reports of daily clashes and indiscriminate shelling of residential areas. On 18 August, air strikes hit the capital and around 10 casualties were reported.
- Heavy clashes, shelling and street fighting have been reported in three new areas in Tripoli known to have a large concentration of people of concern to UNHCR near the Gorji Road and Janzour/Serraj areas. These neighbourhoods are known as communities with large numbers of Eritrean and Somali nationals.
- The capital is facing continuous fuel and electricity shortage, disrupting services and the distribution of basic goods and supplies, including water, food and health care.
- Recent reports confirm that the road between Tripoli and Ras Jdir border point with Tunisia is increasingly unsafe due to clashes, carjacking and other criminal activities. The road is blocked by containers filled with sand.
- An Egyptian was reportedly killed by Libyan security forces at the Tunisian-Libyan border 15 August while trying to cross the border into Tunisia.

TIMELINE OF MAIN EVENTS



Achievements



Protection

Libya

Persons of Concern (PoCs)

- The Tripoli Council's Crisis Committee announced that approximately 43,440 people (7,240 families) have been displaced from the area of the clashes. The International Medical Corps (IMC) estimates that more than 120,000 people (or 20,000 families) may have been affected by the fighting and most have moved to live with their family and friends. The Tripoli Displaced Office Director has stated that if the crisis continues it will become a humanitarian disaster.
- UNHCR continues to receive daily reports of new displacements. On 16 August, the head of the Al Ajaylat Crisis Committee, reported that there are 1,120 displaced families (approximately 6,720 people) residing in Al Ajaylat, a city approximately 40 km west of Tripoli, in dire need of assistance. UNHCR is coordinating with the Taher Al-Zawi and other partner agencies to respond to the needs of IDPs.
- Most IDPs are hosted by their families, friends and local communities. However, bank closures and lack of cash in the banks might decrease their abilities to support themselves. The security situation in Tripoli is grave and has intensified. Most warehouses are located in Tripoli and roads are blocked between Tripoli and the western region

most affected by the conflict. The Libyan Government has highlighted the dire need of medical supplies as hospitals lack essential drugs and equipment.

- Prior to the recent events (13 July), there were 36,984 registered refugees and asylum-seekers in Libya, of whom more than 50 per cent are Syrian nationals (18,710). Most live in areas that have been heavily damaged by the fighting and are unable to leave to a safe area because of ongoing clashes.

Humanitarian Assistance

- UNHCR and partners, IMC and Taher Al-Zawi, distributed the first non-food items (NFI) in Zawiya, a town about 45 km west of Tripoli. The distribution continued on to 18 August and is expected to reach some 12,000 people displaced by the current fighting in and around Tripoli. Items distributed include medical supplies and UNHCR relief items such as blankets, sleeping mats and nappies.
- UNHCR participated in a cross-border monitoring mission into Libya on 17 August along with the International Organization for Migration (IOM), UNICEF, United Nations Mine Action Service (UNMAS), United Nations Support Mission in Libya (UNSMIL) and United Nations Department of Safety and Security (UNDSS). The mission crossed through the Ras Jdir checkpoint. It was the first mission by the UN Country Team to assess the needs and explore ways to operate in order to provide assistance to IDPs due to the ongoing clashes in Tripoli.
- UNHCR and IMC are working to identify pharmacies in safer areas of Tripoli where people registered with UNHCR can receive essential medication (e.g. for diabetes, blood pressure, heart disease etc.).
- UNHCR continues to receive reports of refugees, asylum-seekers and others stranded in conflict zones and unable to move to safer areas due to heavy shelling, increased crime and unsafe roads.
- UNHCR coordinates with IMC and the Libyan Red Crescent (LRC) to provide assistance to these families as security permits.
- UNHCR has learned that at the Al-Krarem Detention Centre in Misrata 650 people, mainly from Eritrea and Bangladesh, are currently held at the centre, including 106 women and 20 children, many of whom are in urgent need of medical care. UNHCR has advocated for their release and will provide hygiene kits, blankets, and medical care through IMC.
- Since the eruption of fighting in Tripoli on 13 July, UNHCR has successfully facilitated the evacuation of a three-year-old unaccompanied child for reunification with its father and the departure of two families for resettlement.

Mixed Migration

- The majority of refugees and asylum-seekers are becoming increasingly desperate to leave Libya. However, they have few other options than irregular sea migration as the Tunisia-Libya border is opened for Libyans and those with valid documents and the Algerian and Egyptian borders with Libya remain closed for third-country nationals.

As of 14 August, 100,475 people have arrived in Italy this year, of whom approximately 90,430 had departed from Libya (90 per cent). The latest figures continue to show Eritreans, Syrians and Malians making up 55 per cent of all arrivals.

Tunisia

Border Movement and Access to Asylum

- During the reporting period, an estimated 25,000 people crossed into Tunisia through the two border crossings of Ras Jdir and Dehiba. The majority are Libyans and Egyptians, with few other nationals including Moroccans.
- All people holding valid travel documents and a transit visa, flight ticket, or arrangements with respective embassies are admitted into Tunisian territory. So far all Libyans have been admitted.
- UNHCR worked in close collaboration and coordination with the Tunisian Government to facilitate the access to humanitarian cases and persons of concern to UNHCR. This included people arriving by land and rescued-at-sea. UNHCR's partner, TRC, arranged for their first night accommodation before transporting them to UNHCR collective centre in Medenine.
- Most Egyptian nationals stranded on the Libyan side of the border were evacuated through Tunisia by air or by sea.

Humanitarian Assistance

- Since 3 August, TRC has deployed staff to Ras Jdir crossing point and is providing food to those at the border. TRC coordinates with the LRC to identify potential persons of concern stranded on the Libyan side of the border.
- There is close coordination between TRC and LRC. Libyan ambulances are transporting wounded people into Tunisia.

Rescue-at-Sea and Mixed Migrations Flows

- On 9 August, Tunisian coast guards rescued 90 people in a boat close to Zarzis Port. The boat departed from Zuwarah, a port city in northwestern Libya, one of the key departure points for mixed migrants sailing to Europe.
- All rescued individuals were immediately assisted by TRC, UNHCR and IOM, and provided with food and medically screened.
- Out of the 90, around 68 were identified as potential persons of concern to UNHCR. They are mainly from Sudan, Somalia and Eritrea. They were transported to and accommodated in UNHCR's dormitory in Medenine, where UNHCR and TRC started their pre-registration.

Contingency Plan

- UNHCR teams deployed in southern Tunisia met with local authorities in order to establish UNHCR's presence at the border crossing points of Dehiba and Ras Jdir. On Friday 15 August, UNHCR and TRC installed a container at the Ras Jdir border where UNHCR, IOM and TRC staff will set up a pre-registration system.
- On 14 August, an inter-agency delegation comprised of the UN Resident Coordinator, UNHCR, IOM and World Food Programme (WFP) Representatives as well as a representative from Swiss Agency for Development and Cooperation (SDC) visited the Ras Jedir crossing point. UN agencies met with the District Security Officer and discussed coordination mechanisms at the border.
- UNHCR's Representative visited the Dehiba border crossing on 15 August, accompanied by UNHCR emergency team, IOM staff and a representative from SDC. They observed lower numbers of people coming through this border point.

Egypt

Border Movement and Access to Asylum

- The border between Egypt and Libya is closed, except for the return of Egyptian nationals.
- The arrival rate of Egyptian nationals from Libya to Egypt through Salloum has dropped to 400 persons per day since 8 August.
- The current population waiting at the border, 26 people, includes nationals from Bangladesh, Jordan, Nigeria and Sudan. This group is currently not receiving any material assistance.
- Thirteen Nigerians arrived on 16 August. UNHCR does not have access to this group yet.
- 26 Sudanese nationals were granted access to Egypt following interventions by the Sudanese embassy. They left for Sudan on 17 August.

Humanitarian Assistance

- The Egyptian army provides medical services and 300 lunches per day for Egyptians.
- UNHCR continues to advocate for permission to provide food and water to those stranded at the border.
- UNHCR has two staff monitoring the situation in Salloum, and has prepared a contingency plan should the situation change and the border be re-opened.