

KEY FIGURES

12,000 IDPs

received humanitarian aid in Libya

2 million people

risking food and medical supply shortages if fighting continues in Libya

100,000 people

internally displaced in Libya due to ongoing fighting and insecurity

99,000 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 planned activities and assistance on the ground**
- **Ensure that all people seeking safety can cross Libya's land borders / keep land borders open to those fleeing violence and seeking international protection**

LIBYA CRISIS

UNHCR REGIONAL UPDATE

1 – 7 September 2014

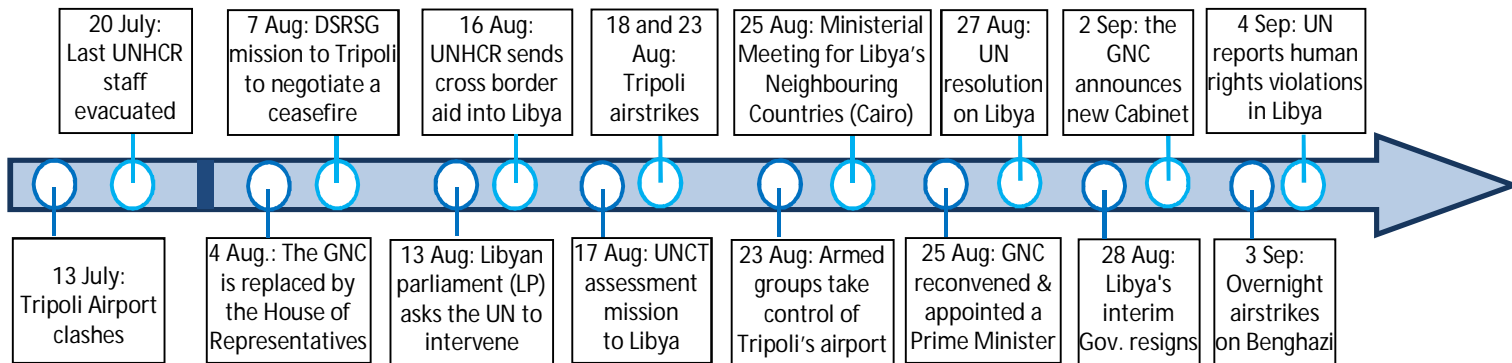
HIGHLIGHTS

Recent Developments Affecting Humanitarian Response

- The ongoing clashes in Libya caused new waves of displacement around the two biggest cities of Tripoli and Benghazi.
- The renewed fighting in the capital is deepening the humanitarian needs in Libya. Local communities in and around Tripoli have expressed a growing concern over their lack of capacity to continue to absorb the needs of internally displaced people (IDPs).
- The United Nations Support Mission in Libya (UNSMIL) and the UN Human Rights Office (OHCHR) released a report on 4 September highlighting serious violations of international human rights and humanitarian law in Tripoli and Benghazi. The report estimates that the fighting has forced over 250,000 people to flee, including 100,000 IDPs. UNHCR contributed to the report on the protection and situation of refugees, asylum-seekers and migrants in the country.
- Human Rights Watch released a report on 8 September warning that in some cases, militia attacks amount to war crimes.
- During the reporting period, 53,000 people crossed into Tunisia. Since the beginning of the current crisis in Libya (mid-July), an estimated 400,000 entries from Libya have been recorded in Tunisia.
- In an interview on 5 August, Tunisia's interim Prime Minister (PM) declared that the situation in Libya is threatening Tunisia's national security hence the recent hardening of border control measures. Tunisia is nevertheless ready to provide humanitarian assistance to Libyans and to serve as a transit country for Libyans and third country nationals fleeing the insecurity.
- In Egypt, the Salloum border crossing with Libya has re-opened on 3 September allowing access to heavy trucks, Libyan nationals with valid visas and those who have close relatives in Egypt. Non-Libyans are admitted if they hold valid travel documents and visas.

UPDATE

Timeline of Main Events



LIBYA

Security and Political Update

- Heavy clashes and indiscriminate shelling between the armed groups (Libyan Dawn forces and Wershafana tribe) continued in the southwestern area of Tripoli. The fighting has caused a new wave of displacement.
- Fierce clashes in Libya's eastern city of Benghazi between militia and rival forces have killed at least 50 fighters and wounded many on both sides. This led to further displacement of residents around the Benina Airport area (east of Benghazi).
- The UK Special Envoy and the Ambassador to Libya returned to Tripoli and Tobruk to assist in the negotiation between warring parties.
- On 2 September, the reconvened General National Congress has sworn in the cabinet ministers in Tripoli, led by the newly appointed Prime Minister Omar Al-Hassi. It means that Libya now effectively has two governments, one in Tripoli and another in the east.

Identification of Needs

Internally displaced people (IDPs)

- The Benghazi local council indicated that there has been a temporary suspension on registration of new IDPs in the city. Some 5,609 families (around 33,650 people) have registered with the local authorities so far. The local council has been able to provide a small housing allowance to 609 families. However, funds have run out and additional budget has been requested to the government.
- The total number of displaced families in Benghazi is expected to increase substantially as newly displaced families from the Benina Airport area (20 km east of Benghazi) have not registered yet. The Benina Airport area has seen the most damages over the past week after airstrikes and clashes between rival armed groups. Several thousands of families are believed to live in this area. UNHCR is following up with the local council to assess the number of families displaced in the area.
- UNHCR is coordinating with its partner CESVI (Italian international NGO), on the distribution of non-food items (NFI) to 90 families (540 people) hosted at schools in Benghazi. The local council has identified these families as most vulnerable and in need of assistance. Schools may open soon and the group is in need of emergency shelter, food and NFIs, such as blankets, mattresses, kitchen sets and hygiene kits. The local council has also noted that psycho-social support and activities for the children are needed. The local council is considering setting up mobile homes for the 90 families to be placed in a camp-like setting and has asked UNHCR to provide assistance.
- The fighting between armed groups in Tripoli has caused new displacement. The majority of those from Warshafana have reportedly fled to the Zintan, Tarhouna and Gheryan areas. Many IDPs from Warshafana have sought shelter in

schools in Gheryan while others are believed to be living with host families. The Gheryan Crisis Committee reported that there are about 7,000 people from Warshafana hosted in Gheryan. These IDPs are in need of food and NFIs and have requested UNHCR's assistance.

Asylum-seekers, Refugees and other Persons of Concern

- UNHCR facilitated the fourth Protection Working Group meeting on 3 September among Libyan-based NGOs and UN agencies temporarily relocated to Tunisia. Present at the meeting were the World Food Programme (WFP), UNICEF, the International Organization for Migration (IOM), the International Committee of the Red Cross (ICRC), the Danish Refugee Council (DRC) and the International Medical Corps (IMC).
- The Department for Combating Irregular Migration (DCIM) recently transferred 270 irregular migrants from Niger, Nigeria, Chad and Senegal to Al-Ghatroun immigration detention centre in the south after, which detainees will be deported to their home countries.
- UNHCR conducted the second round of detention outreach during the reporting period. Approximately 2,500 people are still detained at the various immigration detention centres. Al-Krareem, detention centre in Misrata, is holding the highest number of irregular migrants with up to 700 – 800 people, including women and children. Conditions in these centres have deteriorated considerably. People detained are mainly from Eritrea, Somalia, Sudan and Chad. DCIM has requested UNHCR's support for detainees with provision of hygiene kits, mattresses, shoes, medical assistance, baby milk, and other NFIs.

Humanitarian Assistance Responses

- On 3 September, UNHCR held a tripartite meeting with WFP and Taher Al-Zawi to discuss the logistics of the joint convoy into Libya, scheduled to take place between 10 and 14 September. The food and NFIs will reach approximately 6,670 people (1,334 families) recently displaced by fighting in the Washerfana area.
- UNHCR and IOM will start a weeklong joint psycho-social training benefiting Libyan NGOs in the city of Zarzis in southern Tunisia.
- On 18 August, UNHCR and partners, IMC and Taher Al-Zawi, completed the first cross-border delivery of relief items in Zawiya, west of Tripoli. The distribution reached some 12,000 IDPs in and around Tripoli.

Mixed Migration Challenges

- UNHCR Tripoli reported that the Libyan Coast Guard rescued 70 passengers on 3 September. According to the Coast Guard, 85 passengers were believed to be onboard and some 15 people are believed to have drowned. Nationalities are unknown but are of African descent.
- The Libyan Red Crescent announced that 11 more bodies of irregular immigrants have washed up on Libyan shores in the last 24 hours on 2 September.

TUNISIA

Border Movement and Access to Asylum

- Around 53,000 individuals crossed the border from Libya into Tunisia during the reporting period (1-7 September), while 32,000 crossed from Tunisia towards Libya. This represents a slight increase compared to last week's figures of 46,000 entering and 30,000 leaving Tunisia through both official border crossings with Libya.
- All people holding valid travel documents and a transit visa, flight ticket, or arrangements with respective embassies are admitted into Tunisian territory. All Libyans have been 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.
- During the reporting period, UNHCR facilitated the voluntary return of an Ethiopian national who had recently entered Tunisia from Libya.
- Ambulances continue to enter daily from both border points, carrying wounded for treatment in Tunisia.

Prepositioning Humanitarian Assistance

- UNHCR team is working in coordination with local authorities and partners in trying to complete all preparedness and prepositioning activities by 15 September.
- Pre-registration container offices were installed at both official border points with Libya (Ras Jedir and Dehiba). UNHCR is conducting missions to the border crossings three times a week in order to assess the situation.

Rescue-at-Sea and Mixed Migration

- UNHCR has received inquiries from individuals looking for their family members who intended to cross the Mediterranean Sea. UNHCR Tunisia is referring requests for information on bodies found washed ashore the Tunisian coastline to the relevant agencies. The Tunisian Red Crescent and the Tunisian Coast Guards organized the burial of some 50 bodies this past week.

Contingency Plan and Coordination

- During the reporting period, working groups (WG) continued their meetings and activities in the south of Tunisia. The shelter WG has identified additional shelter options in Medenine and Tataouine governorates. The team is now finalizing the list of available public shelters.

EGYPT

Border Movement and Access to Asylum

- The border between Egypt and Libya reopened on 3 September for heavy trucks and Libyan nationals with approved visa and who have close relatives in Egypt. Non-Libyans are admitted if they hold valid travel documents and visas.
- During the reporting period, 710 Egyptians returned from Libya, 1,003 Libyans crossed into Egypt, 85 Sudanese transited via Egypt.
- As of 7 September, there were 59 people stranded at the border, including: Sudanese, Nigerians, Jordanians and Palestinians. This group is currently not receiving any material assistance. Some have been stranded for more than three weeks and need immediate food and medical assistance, especially pregnant women and people with chronic diseases.

Humanitarian Assistance

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