

KEY FIGURES

18,500 IDPs

received humanitarian aid in Libya

2 million people

risking food and medical supply shortages if fighting continues in Libya

287,000 people

internally displaced in Libya due to ongoing fighting and insecurity

117,500 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 humanitarian access into Libya in order to carry planned activities and assistance on the ground**
- **Ensure that neighbouring countries keep borders open to those fleeing violence and seeking international protection.**

LIBYA CRISIS

UNHCR REGIONAL UPDATE #7

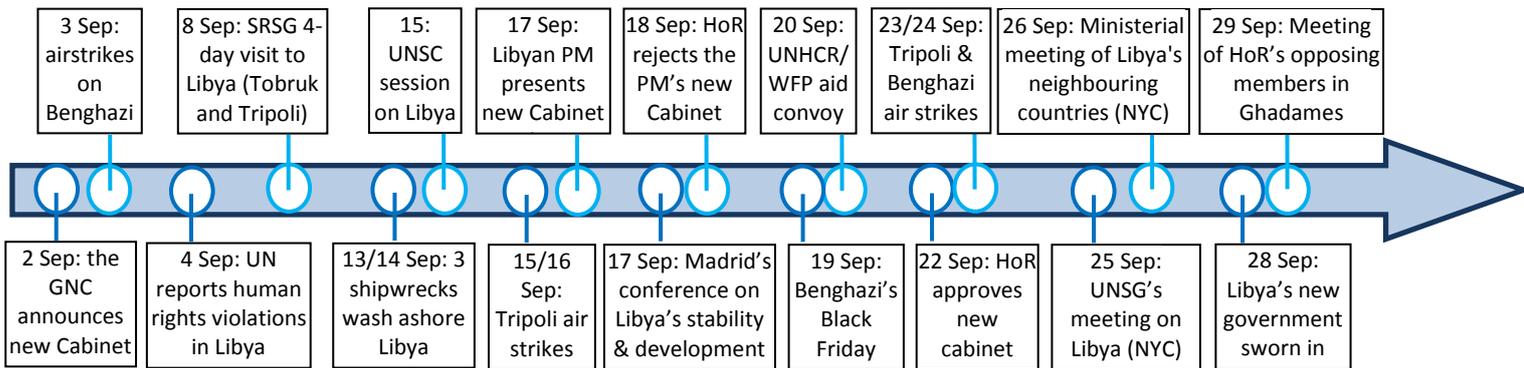
15 – 28 September 2014

LATEST DEVELOPMENTS

- On 20 September, UNHCR, World Food Programme (WFP), International Medical Corps (IMC) and local partner Taher Al-Zawi delivered a humanitarian convoy of food and relief items to reach 6,700 internally displaced people mainly in Zintan, Mizdah and Gheryan, in Western Libya.
- On 29 September, the Special Representative of the Secretary-General (SRSG) for Libya convened a meeting in Ghadames between opposing members of Libya's elected Parliament, in order to pave the way for a political dialogue. Participants reportedly agreed that all airports should be reopened and that humanitarian needs have to be urgently addressed, particularly those of the wounded.
- Libya's elected Parliament, the House of Representatives (HoR), has approved the appointment of Prime Minister Al-Thinni and his cabinet of 13 ministers. The new Government was sworn in on 28 September.
- On 24 September, the UN Resident Coordinator/Deputy SRSG for Libya expressed his concern on the impact of the recent conflict in Libya on civilian population. He appealed to all sides to end the on-going violence and to provide guarantees regarding the protection of civilians. He called on all parties to allow for the unimpeded delivery of humanitarian support including the establishment of safe corridors to affected areas for the passage of civilians, including women, children and vulnerable groups, and to ensure that the humanitarian assistance is provided in an equitable manner.
- At the high-level event on Libya on the margins of the UN General Assembly (25 September), the UN Secretary General warned of an increasing divide in Libya and the regional threat of the Libyan crisis through increasing pockets of lawlessness and extremism. He called for a complete ceasefire and an agreement to find peace.
- At the end of a meeting on Libya organized by the U.S. Secretary of State on 22 September, 13 countries (Egypt, the United Arab Emirates, Turkey, Qatar, Algeria, Britain, France, Germany, Italy, Saudi Arabia, Spain, the United States and Tunisia), the EU and the UN issued a joint statement calling for an immediate ceasefire, rejecting outside interference in Libya and insisting there is no military solution to the conflict in Libya. Algerian FM announced Algeria's plan to launch an inter-Libyan inclusive dialogue leading to national reconciliation and consolidation of the Libyan institutions in October.
- There are increasing reports of Syrian nationals trying to cross irregularly into Libya. On 27 September, 10 Syrians were reportedly arrested in Algeria close to the Libyan border. In Tunisia, four Syrians were arrested and one killed on 22 September, while trying to cross the border into Libya irregularly.
- On 22 September, the Libyan Coast Guard intercepted a boat in distress close to Benghazi. All 130 persons on board were rescued.

UPDATE

Timeline of Main Events



LIBYA

Security and political update

- Despite the move towards political compromise between rival factions, sporadic clashes continue in Libya. In Benghazi, aerial airstrikes and indiscriminate shelling continue near civilian neighbourhoods. Unidentified gunmen targeted and killed over 10 activists, military and security personnel over the weekend of 19 September, including two teenage civil society activists that has shocked the country (Friday 19 September, also known as Benghazi's Black Friday or Benghazi's Bloody Friday).
- Civil society organisations in Al Azziziya (40 km southwest of the capital Tripoli) are calling for an immediate ceasefire and for all parties to allow aid to reach all areas affected by the recent violence in Warshefana. Al Zahra Hospital in Warshefana area was evacuated after experiencing shelling and shortages in medical supplies. Those evacuated were sent to nearby clinics in Zintan, which have also said they are in need of medicines and supplies for the wounded.

Identification of needs

Internally displaced people

- The United Nations Support Mission in Libya (UNSMIL) and the Libya Higher Emergency Committee released new figures indicating that there are 287,318 IDPs. This number includes an estimated 100,000 people recently displaced from the Warshefana area.
- IMC reported that local committees in Zintan and nearby towns have ceased registering new displaced families from the Warshefana area, due to the high number of arrivals. Locals have hosted newly arriving families, but their capacities have been surpassed. The schools have suspended classes and are now sheltering the displaced. With the winter months approaching, in particular the elderly, pregnant women and children are in need of warm clothes, mattresses and blankets.
- UNHCR is coordinating with the Benghazi Local Council to assess and assist some 100 vulnerable families displaced by the fighting. This group needs temporary accommodation as they are presently sheltered in schools, which are due to open in the coming weeks.
- UNHCR is in contact with the Benghazi Local Council to assess the needs of some 2,500 vulnerable families displaced by fighting in Benghazi and nearby cities. Priority is given to IDPs hosted in schools (88 families), who will be re-displaced once school resumes.

Asylum-seekers, Refugees and other Persons of Concern

- UNHCR continues to receive phone calls on its emergency hotlines from people of concern who are unable to register due to temporary suspension of registration activities. On a weekly basis, over 20 new families have called the UNHCR hotlines seeking financial and material assistance in Benghazi and Tripoli. As of 26 September, there are over 260 families who are unable to be registered in Benghazi and have requested assistance. UNHCR is working with the Italian NGO CESVI to assess the most vulnerable.
- UNHCR conducted a third round of detention monitoring assessment (by phone) on 28 September. The Department for Combating Irregular Migration (DCIM) reported that over 300 people from Sudan, Eritrea, Nigeria and Senegal have recently been arrested and detained in the Gheryan immigration detention centre. UNHCR is most concerned about 27 pregnant women and 17 children also held there. The conditions are reported to be extremely harsh, especially for children and women. Detainees are in dire need of non-food items (NFIs) particularly hygiene kits, blankets, baby milk, diapers and clothing. The Head of Gheryan detention centre reported that DCIM in Tripoli has not provided any material assistance to the detention centre. UNHCR is coordinating with IMC and ICRC on provision of most urgent needs.

Humanitarian Assistance Responses

- UNHCR, WFP, IMC and local partner Taher Al-Zawi delivered a humanitarian convoy on 20 September to reach 6,700 IDPs mainly in Zintan, Mizdah and Gheryan. Within three days, the convoy has reached 3,000 IDPs (500 families) recently displaced from the fighting near Warshefana area. The convoy will also deliver food and NFIs to the nearby immigration detention centres.
- UNHCR facilitated the family re-unification of an Eritrean child in Sweden on 19 September. There are other vulnerable individuals and families identified in need of emergency relocations.
- UNHCR facilitated the weekly Protection Working Group (PWG) meeting on 17 and 24 September attended by IOM, IMC, UNSMIL Human Rights, WFP, ICRC and DRC. The PWG re-launched the detention-task force and is developing a detention monitoring mechanism to assess needs inside immigration detention centres in western Libya.

Mixed Migration Challenges

- The Libyan Coast Guard rescued a boat in distress, approximately 11 km off Benghazi, on 22 September. The boat had some 130 people on board, of whom the majority were Bangladeshi, as well as some Egyptians, Palestinians and Syrians. UNHCR has been in contact with the coast guard to provide medical assistance and support to the rescued.
- As of 18 September, UNHCR reports that around 131,000 people have arrived in Italy since January 2014, of whom, more than 117,000 have departed from Libya. So far, over 2,900 people have died while trying to cross the Mediterranean this year.

TUNISIA

Border Movement and Access to Asylum

- During the reporting period, there was no visible increase of people crossing the border from Libya. Some 90,000 people, of whom most are Libyans, entered Tunisia from Libya through official border points of Ras Jedir and Dehiba.
- All people holding valid travel documents and a transit visa, flight ticket, or arrangements with respective embassies are admitted into Tunisian territory. All Libyans were admitted so far. Libyans can stay in Tunisia without a visa.
- Media reports indicated that four Syrians were arrested and one killed on 22 September, while trying to cross the border into Libya irregularly.
- The Tunisian Government has tasked a ministerial committee to produce a report about the situation of Libyans in Tunisia and their impact on the country.

Prepositioning Humanitarian Assistance

- UNHCR is registering refugees and asylum-seekers and conducting Refugee Status Determination in Tunisia.
- Newly arrived asylum-seekers are accommodated in temporary dormitories in Medenine and receive basic assistance including shelter, food and healthcare.

Contingency Plan and Coordination

- On 24 September, UNHCR participated in the 'Rescue at sea' (RAS) working group (WG) in the south with IOM, the DRC, TRC and the Swiss Agency for Development and Cooperation (SDC). The discussion highlighted the lack of immediate response mechanism to address the needs of migrants. The RAS WG was approached by a French NGO France Terre d'Asile that recently established a legal referral system for migrants in Tunisia and who is looking for areas of joint collaboration.
- SDC and UNHCR have launched an 18-months project to address the situation of mixed migrants rescued at sea. The project aims at strengthening reception capacities and at formalizing rescue-at-sea SOPs with all concerned actors.

EGYPT

Border Movement and Access to Asylum

- A total of 1,400 Egyptian nationals and some 1,600 Libyans crossed into Egypt during the reporting period. The arrival trends for Egyptians and Libyans have reduced to less than 100 persons per nationality per day. There is a reduction in the overall number of Egyptians and Libyans crossing into Egypt in September (7,375 in total) compared to some 69,400 Egyptians and 4,500 Libyans in August.
- All people previously stranded at the border have been allowed to transit through Egypt.