



UNHCR

United Nations High Commissioner for Refugees
Haut Commissariat des Nations Unies pour les réfugiés



**UPDATE #3 ON THE HUMANITARIAN SITUATION IN LIBYA
AND THE NEIGHBORING COUNTRIES
6 March 2011**



Egypt / Sallum / 800 kilometers west of Cairo / At the border, Egyptian young men entering into Egypt by foot and carrying their belongings in suitcases and bags. / Refugees and workers living in Libya fled into northern Egypt after repeated violence directed at refugees and migrant workers in Libya / UNHCR / F.NOY / March 2011

FLASH: Donors are requested to continue supporting the air evacuation effort. At this time, the demand is for long-haul flights for third country nationals. If you are able to contribute, please contact the Humanitarian Evacuation Cell at airops@unhcr.org or call 0041 22 739 8733.

Scheduled today

- **Launching of Regional Interagency Flash Appeal for the Libyan Crisis**
- **UNHCR High Commissioner and IOM Director General joint mission to the Tunis border**

Situation updates

Libya

- The UN agencies inter-agency assessment mission arrived back in Egypt from eastern Libya today and held a debriefing for the UN Country Team and donor embassies in Cairo.
- UNHCR organized and funded an Egyptian Red Crescent (ERC) convoy of seven trucks with 25 tons of medical and essential food items for Libya. The convoy crossed the border from Egypt and ERC handed the goods over to the Libyan Red Crescent.

Tunisia

- The UNHCR High Commissioner will be on mission to Tunisia 7-10 March.
- UNHCR is establishing a registration system at the border, including registration of vulnerable people. The transit camp has been cleared to make room for a service area with Rubhalls and kitchen.

Egypt Coordination

- UNHCR chaired a coordination meeting attended by IOM, OCHA, ECHO, DFID, SDC, the Psycho-Social Training Institute in Cairo, UNICEF, Islamic Relief, Terre des Hommes, CRS, European Commission, Samaritans Purse, Dorcas Aid. The coordination meetings take place on a daily basis.

Egypt – Libya Border situation

- The border authorities reported that 98,590 people had entered Egypt since 19 February of which 69,117 were Egyptians and 5,835 Libyans. On 5 March 3,517 persons crossed the border, including 1,768 Egyptians, 541 Libyans, 1,208 other nationalities.
- The border was calmer today with some 1,200 Sudanese who departed. UNHCR estimates that there are some 5,000 people remaining in the port with the majority being Bangladeshis who have been in the port for several days awaiting onward transportation for which UNHCR and IOM are requesting long haul flights.

Algeria

- Although UNHCR still has not yet been granted access to border areas, it is reported, yet not confirmed by UNHCR, that 3,800 Algerians have been repatriated from Libya. At the Algerian-Libyan border, it has been reported that more than 2,405 foreigners representing 25 nationalities have thus far crossed the border into Algeria. Libyan nationals are said to be crossing the border into Algeria at a rate of 100 persons per day. In addition, UNHCR was informed that 753 Sahrawi students, 8 Americans, 6 Libyans, 5 Moroccans and 1 Tunisians were evacuated from Benghazi on March 3 with an Algerian boat.
- The Algerian government has established a coordination committee consisting of representatives from the ministries of Defense, Interior and Cooperation as well as the affected south-eastern governorates of Illizi and Oun Souf, with the Algerian Red Crescent acting as the Government's humanitarian hand in the response to the needs of displaced persons. The government continues to show reluctance to involve foreign actors in the response to the needs of those fleeing Libya. The only exception is made for some embassies which are invited to repatriate their respective nationals.

Europe

- Three Bangladeshi nationals died on the southern Greek island of Crete on Sunday, 6 March when they fled from a ship that was evacuating them from Libya. While the answer is not clear as to why the 49 people fled the ship, it is theorized that they lacked legal documents.

Protection & Assistance

Protection

- A large group of sub Saharan nationals who arrived several days ago at the Egypt – Libya border stated that they were attacked in Libya, their possessions were burnt and they left their homes without their possessions. Furthermore, their wages are long overdue. The Liberian embassy gave travel documents to Liberian nationals though the group has said they do not wish to return to Liberia. The embassy of Cote d'Ivoire has provided their nationals with travel documents.
- Protection cases have been detected at the border and UNHCR and ICRC are addressing the issue.

Assistance

- The Psycho-Social Training Institute in Cairo (PSTIC) - UNHCR's partner for psycho-social support, has deployed a team of five persons to the border point of Sallum providing counseling in five languages: Arabic, English, French, Bengali and Somali.
- Seven UNHCR trucks brought 5,000 blankets, 2,600 plastic sleeping mats, 5,000 packs of hygienic wipes, 5,000 bottles of anti-bacterial hand wash and 10,500 garbage bags to Saloum today. A distribution of blankets took place for some 3,000 persons. UNHCR also distributed sanitary materials to women.
- UNHCR coordinated a smooth food distribution today. UNHCR contributed 3,000 meals, IOM 5,000 meals. Specific attention was given to women and children. It is expected that food

distribution will improve further as other agencies have contributed food items: CRS 2,000, Samaritans Purse 2,500, Islamic Relief and Egypt food bank 10,000.

Funding

- On 7 March, OCHA released the Regional Inter-Agency Flash Appeal for the Libyan crisis which will be officially launched on 7 March at 13h00 in Palais des Nations (Geneva) by the Emergency Relief Coordinator. The appeal is an initial common humanitarian action plan among the aid agencies responding to the crisis. The plan includes the humanitarian actions required inside Libya plus actions to support those who leave Libya for Tunisia, Egypt and Niger, including repatriation of third-country nationals. The aid agencies have based this appeal on a short-term planning scenario of possibly up to 400,000 people leaving Libya and another 600,000 people inside Libya expected to need humanitarian aid. The appeal so far includes the current and planned actions of 17 aid organizations: ACF-Spain, CARE International, FAO, Handicap International, IMC, IOM, IRC, Islamic Relief Worldwide, OCHA, Save the Children, UNDSS, UNFPA, UNHCR, UNICEF, UNOSAT, WFP, and WHO. To achieve their common objectives over a three-month planning and budgeting horizon, these organizations collectively require \$160,256,548. The Central Emergency Response Fund has already allocated \$5 million towards this target. UNHCR's requirements in the appeal are total of USD 32.2m. The appeal and its underlying plan will most likely be revised in two weeks depending on the evolving situation.