UNHCR is deeply saddened by the passing of three UN colleagues in Benghazi, Libya, on 10 August 2019. Their dedication will always be remembered. Their memory will always be honoured.

Population movements

As of 16 August, over 5,280 refugees and migrants were rescued/intercepted at sea by the Libyan Coast Guard during over 70 operations in 2019. So far in August, 753 refugees and migrants disembarked at the Tripoli Naval Base (322 individuals), Al Khums (262 individuals), Azzawya (123 individuals), Zwara (46 individuals). The latest disembarkations took place on 13 August, when 282 refugees and migrants were disembarked in Al Khums (142 individuals), the Tripoli Naval Base (92 individuals) and Azzawya (48 individuals). UNHCR and its partner the International Medical Corps (IMC) assisted those disembarked with primary healthcare and core-relief items (CRI) before they were transferred to a detention centre by the authorities. Recently, boats have departed from areas west of Tripoli near Sabratha, or areas east of Tripoli near Garbulli and Al Khums. UNHCR reiterates that Libya is not a safe country for disembarkation.

Over the past days, nearly 6,700 individuals have been displaced (IDP) because of the conflict in Murzuq, southern region. The majority of IDPs are currently staying with host families and private accommodation in Sebha, Ubari, Wadi Etba, Al Gatroun, Taraghin and safer areas in Murzuq. Over 400 IDPs are also hosted in collective shelters. The main pressing needs are related to healthcare, medical supplies, food, WASH and CRI. UNHCR is planning to distribute CRI targeting 1,000 persons in the coming days.

UNHCR response

There are 4,900 refugees and migrants currently held in detention centres in Libya, out of whom 3,500 are of concern to UNHCR. Nearly 3,100 refugees and migrants are held in detention facilities near conflict-affected areas. UNHCR is advocating for the gradual closure of detention facilities and the release of all refugees and migrants into urban areas. UNHCR is stepping up its response capacity in urban areas to support refugees released from detention with assistance such as cash assistance, medical and psychosocial support.

The Gathering and Departure Facility (GDF) hosts 1,005 persons. With the GDF at full capacity, transfers from detention centres remain blocked. Currently, the facility is hosting Eritrean (57 percent), Somali (19 percent), Sudanese (18 percent) and Ethiopian (4 percent) nationals. UNHCR stresses the urgent need for humanitarian evacuations out of Libya.

UNHCR, IMC and CESVI continue to assist urban refugees and asylum-seekers at the Community Day Centre (CDC) in Tripoli. Last week, UNHCR and partners assisted over 450 refugees and asylum-seekers with primary healthcare, psychosocial support, CRI and cash. So far this year, UNHCR provided over 6,340 medical consultations and distributed cash assistance to over 600 refugee families.

Special thanks to major donors: Canada | Denmark | European Union | Finland | France | Germany | Italy | Japan | Norway | Sweden | Switzerland | The Netherlands | United Kingdom | USA | Private Donors
UNHCR Libya Response in 2019

Key Figures

- 764,210 people of concern
- 50,821 registered refugees & asylum-seekers
- 268,629* internally displaced persons
- 444,760* IDP returnees

UNHCR Coordinated Sectors

- Protection Sector
- Shelter & NFI Sector
- Cash Working Group
- Refugee and Migrant Platform (Co-led by UNHCR, IOM & IRC)

Key Achievements

- 18,343 medical consultations (Disembarkation: 670 - Detention: 11,329 - Urban: 6,344)
- 23,641 IDPs and refugees received non-food items (IDPs: 12,869 - Refugees: 10,772)
- 3,105 individuals received rescue kits at disembarkation points
- 8,855 IDPs and returnees received shelter kits
- 1,515 IDP and refugee households received cash assistance (IDPs: 921 - Refugees: 594)

QIP 17 Quick Impact Projects implemented

- 6,370 individuals registered (2,357 in detention)
- 810 monitoring visits to detention centres
- 1,661 detained refugees/asylum-seekers released
- 1,005 refugees departed via Gathering and Departure Facility (710 to Niger, 295 to Italy)
- 1,345 individuals departed from Libya in 2019
- 340 RST departures in 2019 (796 since 2017)
- 1,005 individuals evacuated from Libya (710 to Niger, 295 to Italy) in 2019
- 4,418 individuals departed from Libya (2,912 to Niger, 710 to Italy and 425 to Romania 371 to other countries) since Nov 2017

UNHCR Funding Requirements

- USD 88.1 million required in 2019
- 41% Funded
- 59% Gap