

SITUATION OVERVIEW

In March, the conflict continued to escalate in Tripoli and other locations in western Libya. Airstrikes and artillery shelling have continued to severely impact the safety and lives of the population. Particularly heavy clashes were reported in Abu Gurayn, east of Misrata, which triggered the displacement of over 4,650 individuals in February and March.

In the same period and due to the spread of COVID-19 in the region, the Libyan authorities have taken measures to limit movement of populations by closing the airspace and land borders, declaring a 12-hour curfew that was later extended and installing cross-country travel restrictions to help prevent COVID-19 infections.

Over 492,000 migrants and internally displaced persons (IDPs) are estimated to be in need of humanitarian assistance, including shelter, non-food items, protection, health care, clean water and safe sanitation, and food. So far in 2020, more than 18,700 IDPs and 5,373 migrants have received core relief items from IOM Libya. Conflict, coupled with the government and private sector responses to COVID-19, is expected to adversely affect both migrant and Libyan livelihoods, placing more individuals at risk of requiring humanitarian assistance.

COVID-19 RESPONSE

As of March 31, as Libya attempts to slow the spread of COVID-19, IOM is scaling up its operations to reach more vulnerable people in need of assistance. The curfews and physical distancing has reduced demand for non-critical jobs that are often performed by migrant workers. An increasing number of migrants have been contacting IOM with requests for support; IOM anticipates that many migrants will be unable to work and earn income during the indeterminate period that Libya is affected by COVID-19. IOM has seen a notable increase in requests for the provision of hygiene kits to migrants and IDPs in the last 10 days of March.

On the ground, IOM is applying precautionary measures in coordination with government entities and partners to ensure that IOM staff and assisted persons are appropriately protected against COVID-19 transmission during IOM activities, through proper use of masks and physical distancing.

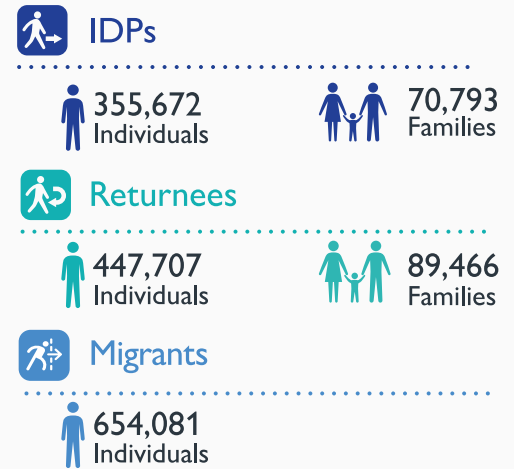
To help prevent the spread of COVID-19, IOM launched a comprehensive sanitation campaign in the communities of IDPs and migrants. The campaign was accompanied by the critical distribution of non-food items, health support and access to outreach services including referrals delivered by the IOM Migrant Resource and Response Mechanism (MRRM) mobile teams.

IOM is also conducting disinfection and fumigation campaigns in detention centres and disembarkation points; in addition to delivering the information campaign to migrants located in such challenging living conditions. The campaigns are complemented by the distribution of non-food items, hygiene kits and clothing.

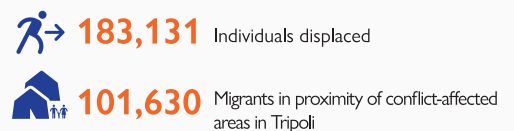
With the closure of Libyan airspace, the IOM Voluntary Humanitarian Programme (VHR) is maintaining communications with government authorities and adjusting its activities. IOM continues to disseminate information about the VHR programme, provide counselling, operate a hotline and register migrants. IOM registered 403 migrants during March 2020.

IOM has also been implementing the Mobility Restriction survey globally in order to understand how COVID-19 is impacting human mobility. In Libya, IOM's Displacement Tracking Matrix (DTM) continues to track internal movement of migrants and displaced Libyans. This tracking, which captures displacement trends, informs IOM contingency planning and will contribute to real-time information sharing and coordination between the Libyan Government and the international and humanitarian community.

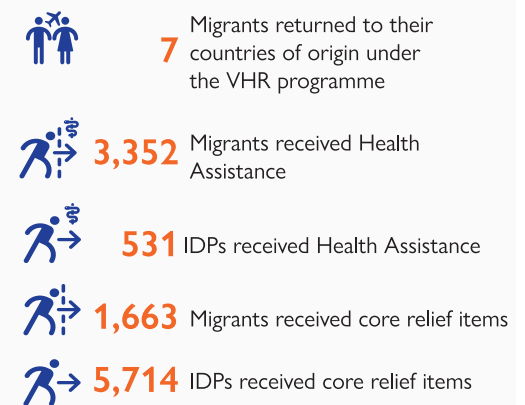
KEY FIGURES



SINCE THE BEGINNING OF THE CLASHES (April 2019)



ASSISTANCE PROVIDED IN MARCH 2020



CENTRAL MEDITERRANEAN UPDATE



ASSISTANCE TO MIGRANTS AND LIBYAN COMMUNITIES



In March, the **Direct Assistance** teams helped 5,504 internally displaced persons (IDPs) and 1,559 migrants to receive core relief items such as blankets, mattresses, hygiene kits, clothing and kitchen sets. Distributions focused on reaching populations who were in critical need: IOM teams assisted migrants in 9 detention centres providing items that would improve their living conditions; and reached recently displaced populations around Benghazi and Tripoli.



IOM has been working closely with the Ministry of Health and private and public health facilities to respond to widespread service gaps. IOM **Health** teams provide primary health care and through emergency services connect individuals to public health facilities. IOM health mobile clinics are staffed with medical specialists and supplies to help displaced Libyans, migrants, and conflict-affected communities.



IOM's mobile clinic provides primary health care to displaced Libyans in Janzour. ©IOM Libya / 2020

During March, the Health team conducted 3,883 medical consultations (3,352 migrants and 531 IDPs) at locations in east, west and south Libya. The team referred 78 cases to hospitals and clinics for diagnostic and in-patient care. In Tripoli, migrants received health screenings and medical care at disembarkation points after rescue at sea. IOM's mobile clinic in Janzour conducted four outreach activities; 332 persons (141 migrants and 191 IDPs) were provided medical consultations and information on personal COVID-19 precautions, including basic hand hygiene and healthy routines to avoid infections. IOM health information provided to individuals is aimed at preventing and containing COVID-19 transmission, as well as encouraging the improvement of personal health and sanitation practices within and between communities.



The **Protection** team conducted 105 vulnerability assessments (64 men, 34 women and 7 families), including 22 child protection assessments. During March, the team distributed 31 clothing kits, 28 hygiene kits, 19 infant kits and 9 food baskets to individuals from multiple nationalities. The team also distributed cash to a vulnerable family from Nigeria who were at risk of eviction.

On March 8, IOM organized and facilitated the celebration of International Women's Day, connecting 100 migrant women from more than 10 nationalities at the opening of the Migrant Resource and Response Mechanism Centre in Tripoli. The Protection team specifically supported 35 women to participate and access awareness sessions on risks related to migration journeys.

The Alternatives to Detention programme (ATD) followed up with their distribution of ATD assistance to individuals and helped seven other persons to secure safe accommodation with host families in Ghoot Alshaal and Seyahia area.



The **Mental Health and Psychosocial Support** team continued to respond to the mental health and psychosocial needs of migrants in detention centres and urban locations. The team provided services to 141 migrants in Tripoli and Zuwara cities, and to migrants at disembarkation points following their rescue at sea. The MHPSS team conducted several activities, including psychological first aid, raising awareness and psycho-education sessions, art-based activities, group support, counselling and psychiatric assessments.



The **Migration Resource and Response Mechanism (MRRM)** mobile teams reached a total of 8,036 migrants in five locations in Libya: Bani Walid, Qatroun, Sebha, Tripoli and Zuwara. The team reached migrants from 27 different nationalities with Chadians, Nigerians, Nigeriens and Sudanese representing the highest number nationalities. Among them, 796 migrants received direct assistance in the form of services and provision of non-food items, hygiene kits and clothing. IOM continued to facilitate referrals of persons to its programmes for further support: 33 cases were referred to the protection team, 6 to the MHPSS team and 365 migrants were referred to the Voluntary Humanitarian Return team for follow up. On 8 March, MRRM opened a centre in Tripoli that will be a central service and assistance hub. The MRRM **#InformedMigrants** campaign was also launched to inform migrants and raise their awareness on risks and dangers of irregular migration as well as the health prevention measures.



In March, the **Community Stabilization** team continued to progress projects identified by communities as priorities. New equipment at Naqr Knemma Guest House and Qasr Masoud Guest House in **Qatroun** will make the House an inviting public space for communities to meet on neutral ground for important decisions (including conflict resolution) and to host weddings and funerals that support community cohesion.

Similarly, the Qatroun Culture House has new furniture and equipment to support youth and cultural activities that facilitate life skills development. A water well at Tegerhi will supply water for household consumption, improving community access to water.

The Tabalino Ibn Khaldoun school in **Qatroun** is installing sanitary blocks to ensure student privacy and enhanced sanitary conditions to promote good hygiene practices. The Benghazi Alnoujayla Martyrs school classrooms are being rehabilitated to provide an enriched learning environment. Equipment at the Sabha Al Quds Secondary School will provide an enriched learning environment and support school administration.

Construction has commenced on **Kufra's** first football field which will provide a safe place for children to play and connect. In **Kufra**, work commenced to install a new generator at Atiya Alkasah Hospital generator that will stabilise electricity to the hospital and provide valuable backup capacity in a city that experiences frequent electricity cuts and shortages.

In **Sabha**, the second-largest city in Libya, work continues on the installation of 13 water wells that will provide a secure supply of water. Equipment provided to the Dentistry University of Sabha will assist new graduates to apply their skills and enhance the low-cost clinic that services the public. Work continued to install a generator for a water well at Alsha'biat, and the installation of a football pitch at Alnasiriya.

IOM continued to support the activities and organisational development of Libyan community service organisations (CSOs); assisting the Qatroun Debate Club to complete an eight-week radio series on topics relating to social cohesion and peacebuilding. In **Benghazi**, IOM supported the CSO Basmet Khair conducted a successful four-day personal development workshop for 25 university graduates and public sector employees.

IOM LIBYA'S ACTIVITIES ARE SUPPORTED BY



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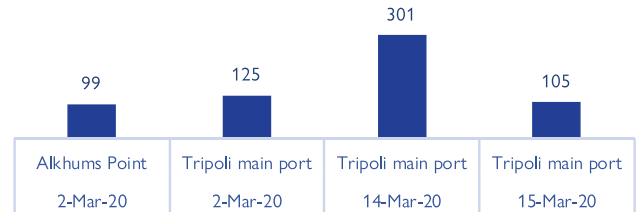


IN MARCH 2020

630 Migrants Disembarked in Libya



Disembarkation Location and Date (March 2020)



In 2019

9,225

DISEMBARKED IN LIBYA



121 Deaths 102 Missing

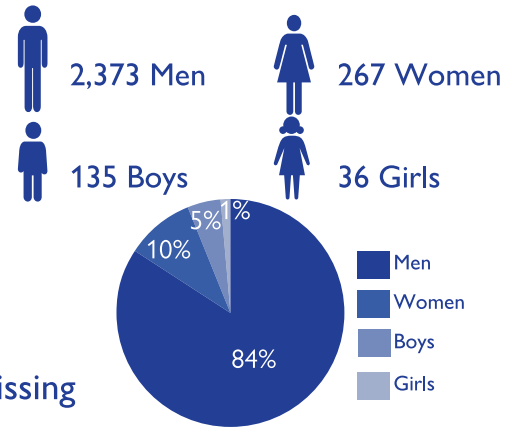
In 2020 so far

2,811

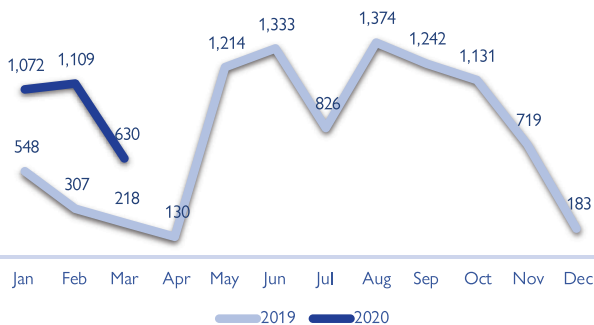
DISEMBARKED



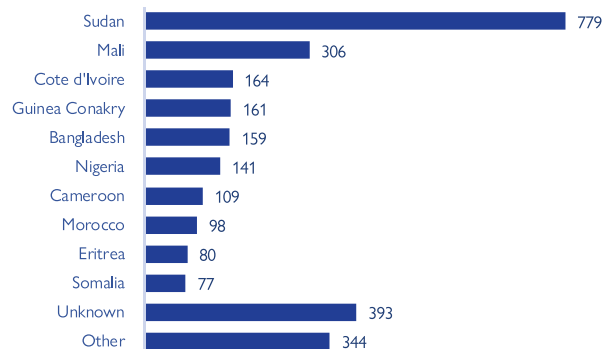
4 Bodies Retrieved 3 Missing



Monthly Disembarkation Trends 2019 and 2020



Nationalities of Individuals Disembarked in 2020



Disclaimer: Figures based on updates from IOM Libya Search and Rescue (SAR) data, compiled from disembarkations in Libya. For detailed data on deaths and missing migrants please refer to the missing migrants project. (<https://missingmigrants.iom.int/>) Figures on Maritime incidents in Libya are estimates based on initial reports at the time of each incident, and are regularly updated as more information becomes available.