



IOM • OIM

LIBYA: HUMANITARIAN SUPPORT TO MIGRANTS AND IDPS

INTERNATIONAL ORGANIZATION FOR MIGRATION

SITUATION REPORT • AUGUST 2016



Pre-departure preparations for migrants departing Tripoli in an IOM chartered plane back home to Nigeria. Photo: © IOM 2016

■ On 23 August, IOM organized a voluntary repatriation charter flight with **241 Nigerian migrants** (67 women and 174 men) back to Lagos, Nigeria.

■ In August, **388 migrants** were rescued outside the Libyan coast. The Libyan Coast Guard has so far this year rescued 10,634 migrants.

■ **Al Falah detention** centre in Tripoli ran out of food on 23 August. After an intervention by IOM, Libyan Directorate for Combating Illegal Migration was able to take over the food delivery on 25 August.

■ IOM Libya's Chief of Mission Othman Belbeisi sat down with **BBC Media Action's** El Kul (For Everyone) to talk about the migration situation in Libya.

Situation Overview

Libya remains divided after the House of Representatives (HoR), based in the north-eastern city of Tobruk, voted no-confidence in the UN-backed Government of National Accord led by Fayez al-Sarraj. This is a set back for the international community, which has faced increasing difficulty in mobilising support behind the Government of National Accord.



On an economic note, Libya's oil resources remain in a state of flux. Whilst the country struggles to ramp up oil exports, the head of the National Oil Corporation announced that the plan is to increase oil production five fold before the end of this year. However, at the same time, two of the country's southern oil fields have been closed as the government has not paid the funds needed to maintain security operations.

Military operations against the Islamic State in Sirte have intensified, in what has been depicted as a final push to liberate the area. The United States has conducted about 100 air strikes against targets inside Sirte during the month of August. The fighting continues to displace a large number of people and strains the capacity of local communities in Tarhuna, Al Jufrah and Bani Waled. IOM Libya is currently assessing the needs of displaced people from Sirte and preparing to facilitate future returns.

In the last week of August, a large number of migrants left the Libyan shore, particularly from Sabratah. Thousands of migrants travelling on the Central Mediterranean Route were rescued by the Italian Coast guard. Whilst around 7,500 migrants, on 30 boats, were rescued by the Sofia Operation in Italian waters, the Libyan Coast Guard rescued, on 30 August, 300 migrants on two boats outside Subratah. In addition, 88 migrants were reportedly rescued by the Libyan Red Crescent in Subratah. So far 10,634 migrants have been rescued by the Libyan Coast Guard this year. The increase in migrant boats leaving the Libyan coast at the end of the month is believed to be influenced by factors including a decrease in security and calmer waters. IOM Libya is working closely with the Libyan Coast Guard to improve the Rescue at Sea operations and provided a three day technical workshop on saving lives at sea in Libya, in coordination with UNHCR, in August (for more details see below).

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NFI and Protection

Date	Location	Beneficiaries	Distributed	Local partner
1 August	Bani Waled	250 IDP families	Non-food items and hygiene kits	Asalam Bani Waled
1 August	Garaboli	250 IDP families	Non-food items and hygiene kits	Multakana
1 August	Al Khums detention centre	137 migrants	Non-food items and hygiene kits	Multakana
1 August	Al-Sekka detention centre	200 migrants	Non-food items and hygiene kits	Multakana
16 August	Tulmitha detention centre	30 migrants	Non-food items and hygiene kits	LRC Benghazi
17 August	Al Kwifiya detention centre	50 migrants	Non-food items and hygiene kits	LRC Benghazi
21 August	Al Khums detention centre	36 migrants	Non-food items and hygiene kits	STACO
21 August	Misratah detention centre	107 migrants	Non-food items and hygiene kits	STACO
21 August	Al Kwifia detention centre	100 migrants	Non-food items and hygiene kits	LRC Benghazi
22 August	Al Kwifia detention centre	35 migrants	Non-food items and hygiene kits	LRC Benghazi
23 August	Al Baydha detention centre	128 migrants	Non-food items and hygiene kits	LRC Benghazi
28 August	Al Fallah detention centre	625 migrants	Non-food items, hygiene kits, slippers and cleaning supplies	Multakana
30 August	Salaheddine detention centre	350 migrants	Non-food items, hygiene kits and 60 cleaning supplies	Multakana
31 August	Misratah detention centre	188 migrants	Non-food items and hygiene kits	STACO
31 August	Surman, Az Zawiyah, Abu Eissa and Shuhada Nasr detention centres	500 migrants	Non-food items and hygiene kits	STACO
31 August	Al Gharyan detention centre	1,400 migrants	Non-food items and hygiene kits	Ayadi Al Khir
Total:		4,386		

IOM addresses food shortage in detention centre

On 23 August, the catering company providing food to Al Falah detention centre in Tripoli with 610 migrants (120 females, 490 males, including 12 children) decided, without warning, to stop the food delivery as the centre didn't receive enough donations and couldn't afford the catering costs. To assist, MSF and the detention centre management provided detained migrants with bread, cheese and tuna cans on 24 and 25 August.

On 25 August, IOM was informed and deployed a senior staff member to the detention centre to carry out an assessment with recommendations for follow up on the findings. In addition, following consultations, the Department of Combatting Illegal Migration (DCIM) agreed to intervene and contacted the catering company the same day with a request to

resume services. That evening the company arrived with hot meals for all the migrants in the detention centre.

IOM is now following up with a number of interventions, including a medical doctor who will visit the centre to screen migrants that are in need of consultations.



Health assistance

On 1 August, 3 migrants (all male) received medical treatment from IOM Libya's local partner STACO's medical team at Al Khums detention centre. On 2 August, the medical team visited the Abu Essa detention centre to treat 5 migrants (1 male, 3 females and 1 child) from Nigeria, followed by a visit to Az Zawiyah detention centre for treatment of 27 migrants (25 men and 2 female) of different nationalities.

On 8 August, 14 medical cases received medical assistance at Abu Essa detention centre. On the same date, 10 cases received medical assistance at Al Khums detention centre. On 9 August 2016, 2 patients received medical assistance at Shahat detention centre.

On 23 August, 2 medical cases were screened in Shahat detention centre, on the same day 54 medical cases were screened in Surman detention centre including cases of scabies, chest pain, infection and typhoid fever.

On 24 August, 4 cases at Shuhada Al-Nasr detention centre were screened and 7 cases at Al Khums detention centre.





Humanitarian Repatriation

With the voluntary return of 241 Nigerian nationals from detention in Libya this week (23 August), IOM has now repatriated nearly 11,000 migrants from Libya to their countries of origin since the overthrow of the Gaddafi regime in 2011.

The Nigerians included 174 men and 67 women, and included several teenagers. This brings the total number of Nigerians returned from Libya in 2016 to 581. Since the onset of the Libyan crisis in 2011, more than 1,600 Nigerians have returned home from Libya with IOM.

This compares with approximately 3,000 migrants returned from Libya to Niger – a country which shares a land border with Libya. IOM charters have also repatriated migrants from Libya to Senegal, Mali, Burkina Faso, Guinea-Conakry, Ghana, Sudan and The Gambia.

“The humanitarian repatriation programme ensures humane, dignified and safe return for stranded migrants back to their home countries,” said IOM Libya Chief of Mission Othman Belbeisi. “This is the third return flight to Nigeria since the beginning of 2016. Our office in Nigeria is providing reintegration assistance to the most vulnerable of these returnees,” he added.

Ellsa, 20, had nearly made it across the Mediterranean, but the boat in which she was travelling was intercepted by the Libyan Coastguard.



I paid 400,000 Nigerian Naira (USD 1,000) in Nigeria to get to Italy, but I never want to leave again. I never thought Libya would be worse than back home. I am happy to be going back



This is the third charter to Nigeria since January 2016, IOM has evacuated a total of 581 Nigerians from Libya this year with the total number of 1,583 migrants assisted in 2016.

Nigerians are among the top nationalities rescued from rubber dinghies and other small crafts in the Channel of Sicily by Italian and other vessels. IOM Rome reports that between January 1, 2015 and the end of July 2016 at least 40,824 Nigerians arrived in Italy after being rescued at sea. Almost all of them sailed from Libya.

Suliman Alabi, a consular assistant with the Nigerian embassy in Tripoli, says that without the IOM charters, many of the migrants would still be stranded in detention centres. He estimates that there may be as many as 6,000 undocumented Nigerian nationals still in detention centres or living in Libyan towns. “Although many are leaving, many continue to come,” he notes.



Before boarding the IOM charter flight to return home on Tuesday, each migrant was provided with a hygiene kit, underwear, a shirt, tracksuit and shoes. A mobile patrol from the Libyan Directorate of Combating Illegal Migration (DCIM) escorted the buses to Mitiga airport.

On arrival at Murtala Muhammed International Airport (MMIA), the returnees were met by IOM Nigeria staff. They were provided with post-arrival assistance and given cash grants to facilitate their onward transportation. The most vulnerable migrants – 18 percent of the group – will be given reintegration assistance by IOM Nigeria over the next six months.

The cost of the charter was covered by three IOM projects funded by the **Swiss State Secretariat of Migration**, the **UN Central Emergency Response Fund** and **the Kingdom of the Netherlands**.



Capacity Building

On 1 August IOM Libya organized a first orientation meeting to discuss the details of the project “Enhancing Saving Lives at Sea Operations by the LCG and Support the Humanitarian Repatriation of Vulnerable Migrants from Libya.” The 18 month project is aiming to improve LCG’s capacities to conduct Saving Lives at Sea operations through targeted infrastructural/technical support, complemented by specialized training and capacity-building, including enhancing LCG infrastructure at up to 3 points of disembarkation around Tripoli and the west coast of the country.





Capacity Building (continued)

On 2 August, IOM Libya's chief of mission Othman Belbeisi met with the head of the Directorate for Combatting Illegal Migration (DCIM). IOM welcomes its cooperation with the DCIM and seeks to enhance access to the detention centres, enhance information sharing between IOM and DCIM, provide regular updated lists for detention centres under the DCIM, donate 3 clinics to 3 detention centres, as well as continue the NFI distribution. The meeting was also attended by representatives from the British and Dutch embassies who discussed a proposal for projects in the areas of human rights and capacity building, refurbishment of detention centres and humanitarian repatriation.

On 24 – 25 August IOM held its monthly coordination meeting with Libyan colleagues and non-governmental organizations. The aim of the coordination meeting was to address challenges, including obstacles facing the local partners trying to meet the needs of displaced people from Sirte. During the meeting the participants also received psychosocial support training.

Between 29 and 31 of August, IOM organised the 4th Technical Workshop and Coordination Meeting on Saving Lives at Sea in Libya. The meeting, which was attended by 45 participants including the Chief of Missions of both IOM and UNHCR discussed a number of technical points that include the legal framework for the protection of migrants, refugees and asylum seekers, an update on body management and response (ICRC), Standard Operations Procedures (SOP) Rescue at Sea-Libya. The meeting also dealt with the current migration trends as provided by IOM and UNHCR.



Program Officer Maysa Khili during the Technical Workshop and Coordination Meeting on Saving Lives at Sea in Libya
Photo: © IOM 2016



Community Stabilization

IOM Libya is in the initial stage of establishing a community stabilization program in both Sabha and Al Qatrun, in southern Libya. The program, funded by both the EU and the federal government of Germany, aims at promoting peace and stability for IDPs, migrants and local host communities in Libya, and to build local capacities and promote peace initiatives with local authorities, NGOs and CSOs through training activities and support inter and intra community dialogue.

A variety of projects are planned to be implemented under the community stabilization program, in the following main sectors:

- 1) **infrastructure, agricultural and social- cultural sectors**
- 2) **restoration of essential services**
- 3) **livelihood support and vocational training**
- 4) **community outreach and social cohesion and local governance**
- 5) **psychosocial support**

A German firm, CEFE International has been contracted to provide a TOT (Training of Trainers) to community leaders from both Sabha and Al Qatrun. CEFE training is a comprehensive set of training instruments designed to stimulate positive change in various development processes via experiential learning methods. It provides highly participative, action-oriented training in all areas related to entrepreneurship and private sector development.

The participants are currently being identified in collaboration with staff members with assistance from CEFE. The intensive training will take place in September and a follow up coaching session in November.



IOM Libya Chief Of Mission Othman Belbeisi meets with the Minister of Local Governance
Photo: © IOM 2016





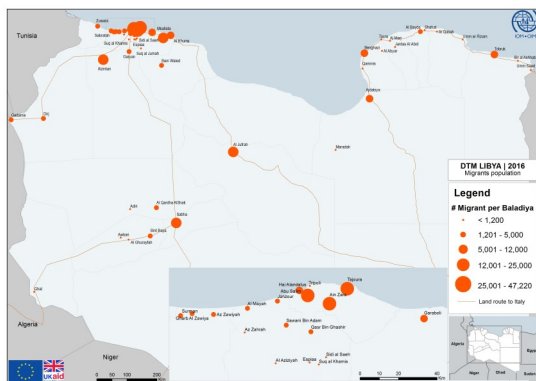
Displacement Tracking Matrix (DTM)

DTM Libya released its Round 5 **Mobility Tracking Report** on 12 August, covering the reporting periods of July and August. Based on an assessment of 100 *baladiyas* and 533 *muhallas* in Libya, the report has identified and located **348,372 IDPs** and **310,265 returnees** and out of the around 700,000 migrants expected to be in the country, DTM was able to track **276,957 migrants**.

The most notable changes observed since the previous round of reporting included an increase in the number of returnees to Benghazi, following the reduction of conflict in many districts, as well as growing return movements to Derna, Az Zawiyah, Gwalesh, Sabha, As Sidr and Kikla.

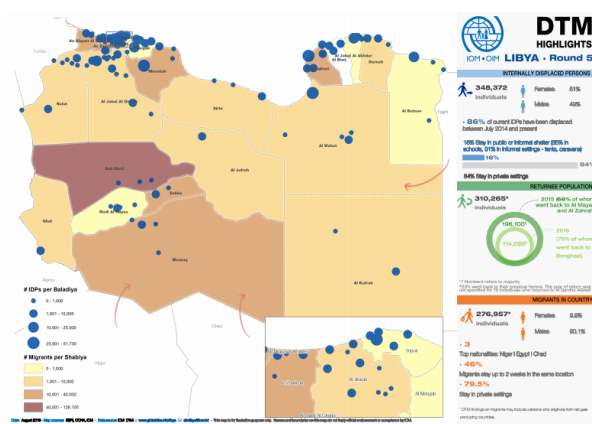
These findings were complemented by a decrease in the number of IDPs identified in Benghazi, Tobruk, Tripoli, Az Zawiyah and Derna.

While 84 percent of IDPs were living in private accommodation, either renting or being hosted by families, the remaining 16 percent were in public areas. These were primarily schools, informal settings (tents, caravans or makeshift shelters) and unfinished buildings.



This presents the latest update to the baseline DTM had established in previous rounds of reporting. For the full dataset, summary tables, maps and Round 5 analytical report, visit www.globaldtm.info/libya

DTM Libya also released its **DTM Round 5 interactive dashboard** on IDPs, returnees and migrants in Libya.



DTM also released its first **Flow Monitoring report** on August 29th, covering the reporting period of July 12th to August 14th.

- In this period, 1,213 crossing migrants were recorded across 6 flow monitoring areas, and 453 migrants were surveyed. Main migrant nationalities recorded were Nigerian, Egyptian and Nigerian
- 65% of survey respondents left their countries of origin more than 6 months ago
- 87% of respondents reported having left their countries of origin due to economic reasons, 5% due to war or political reasons, and 8% for other reasons.
- Approximately 32% of respondents to the surveys reported not having received any education and 21% received primary education. Notable statistics: 50% of Egyptians reported having obtained vocational education, compared to 3% of Nigeriens.
- 71% of migrants from countries bordering Libya reported having paid less than USD 1,000 for their journey.
- 48% of migrants from West African countries reported having paid between USD 1,000 and 5,000, and 43% paid less than USD 1,000.

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