

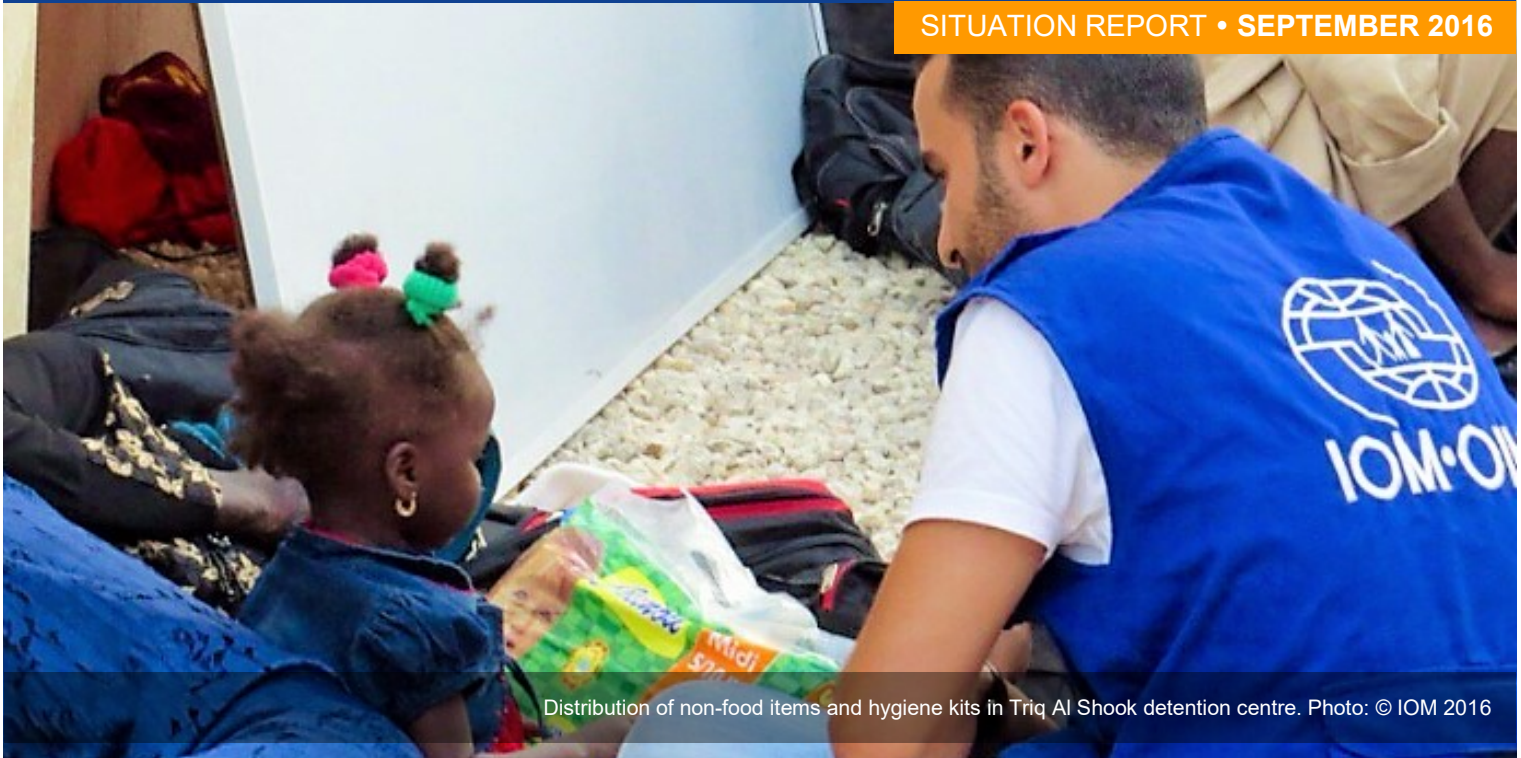


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# LIBYA: HUMANITARIAN SUPPORT TO MIGRANTS AND IDPS

INTERNATIONAL ORGANIZATION FOR MIGRATION

SITUATION REPORT • SEPTEMBER 2016



Distribution of non-food items and hygiene kits in Triq Al Shook detention centre. Photo: © IOM 2016

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■ On 20 September, IOM Libya helped **160 stranded Burkinabe** migrants, including 13 women, 9 children and 4 infants to return to Burkina Faso from Libya.

■ On 19-20 September, IOM Libya brought together municipal and community leaders from **Sabha** in southern Libya.

■ DTM Libya released its second **Flow Monitoring statistical report** on 15 September.

## Situation Overview

Following the no-confidence vote from the House of Representatives (HoR), based in the north-eastern city of Tobruk, the UN-backed Government of National Accord led by Fayez al-Sarraj continues to face difficulty in mobilising support. Serraj has called for national reconciliation and announced that consultations have been launched to form a new cabinet in the coming weeks.



At the same time, military influence is increasing in eastern Libya with armed forces commander-in-chief Khalifa Haftar gaining ground and popular support. Earlier in September, forces loyal to the Libyan National Army (LNA) seized the oil port of Brega, after already having taken control over Ras Lanouf, Es-Sidra and Zuwaytina. The seizure was condemned by the Presidency Council and the international community. The division between the east and the west has raised fears of a possible military confrontation between forces loyal to the GNA and Haftar's LNA.

On an economic note, Libya has exported its first oil with a tanker leaving Libyan port Ras Lanuf for Italy in mid-September, it is the first crude oil export cargo from the terminal since late 2014, boosting hopes of reviving Libya's oil output.

In the meantime, military operations against the Islamic State in Sirte continues. The operations by Libyan and American forces have been depicted as the final push to liberate the area and has spurred speculations about the group's next move, some arguing the extremist group may try moving south in the country. The group's area is currently estimated to be limited to one neighbourhood.

Migrants continue to travel on the Central Mediterranean Route, in September the Libyan Coast Guard rescued 1,948 migrants. To better meet the needs of these migrants, IOM is currently making the necessary preparations for the instalment of 3 medical centres at the disembarkation points, which will provide migrants with the necessary medical support upon rescue operations by the Libyan coastguard. In addition, IOM is supporting the coastguard with direct assistance for the rescued migrants.

So far 12,582 migrants have been rescued by the Libyan Coast Guard this year.

IOM Libya Chief of Mission Othman Belbeisi



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## NFI Direct Assistance

Date	Location	Beneficiaries	Distributed	Local partner	Donor
3 September	Al Marj	30 migrants	Non-food items and hygiene kits	LRC	ECHO
6 September	Surman detention centre	309 migrants	Non-food items and hygiene kits	STACO	ECHO
9 September	Bani Walid	700 migrants	Non-food items and hygiene kits	Al Salam Bani Walid	ECHO
10 September	Abu Salim detention centre	275 migrants	Non-food items and hygiene kits	Moltakana	ECHO
18 September	Shahat detention centre	150 migrants	Non-food items and hygiene kits	LRC	ECHO
20 September	Az Zawiyah Shuhada	650 migrants	Non-food items and hygiene kits	STACO	ECHO
22 September	Misratah detention centre	237 migrants	Non-food items and hygiene kits	STACO	ECHO
22 September	Al Khums detention centre	10 migrants	Non-food items and hygiene kits	STACO	ECHO
22 September	Al Gobba detention centre	50 migrants	Non-food items and hygiene kits	LRC	ECHO
22 September	Al Bayda detention centre	100 migrants	Non-food items and hygiene kits	LRC	ECHO
26 September	Tajerhi outside detention centre	200 migrants	Non-food items, hygiene kits and slippers	STACO	DFID
26 September	Surman detention centre	256 migrants	Non-food items, hygiene kits, shoes and sportswear	STACO	ECHO
27 September	Abou Essa detention centre	83 migrants	Non-food items, hygiene kits, shoes and sportswear	STACO	ECHO
30 September	Sabha outside detention centre	400 migrants	Non-food items, hygiene kits and slippers	STACO	DFID
30 September	Tobruk detention centre	130 migrants	Non-food items and hygiene kits	LRC	ECHO
30 September	Al-Shok road detention centre	482 migrants	Non-food items, hygiene kits, slippers, diapers, sanitary pads, shoes and sportswear	Moltakana	ECHO
<b>Total:</b>		<b>4,062</b>			

## Health support

The following medical assessments were conducted in September:

- On 7 September, a 26-year-old woman from Cameroon, at Surman detention centre gave birth to a baby girl at Az Zawiyah General Hospital with the assistance of IOM's local partner STACO.
- On 18 September, 3 male cases of scabies were treated at Az Zawiyah detention centre.
- On 20 September, there were 34 cases, including 13 pregnant women receiving treatment at Al Nasser detention centre.
- On 21 September, 3 male cases in their early twenties were treated for headache, shoulder pain and eye infection at al Khums detention centre.
- On 18 September, 42 medical cases, of which 41 were women, including pregnancies were treated at Surman detention centre.
- On 25 September, 16 medical cases were treated at Misratah detention centre, symptoms included skin rash and headaches.







## Humanitarian Repatriation

IOM organized its first humanitarian repatriation charter flight from southern Libya on 6 September, flying 171 stranded Nigerien migrants (including 76 women and 39 children) back to Niger. The flight departed from Taminhint Airport – 30 kilometres from the city of Sabha and 750 kilometres south of Tripoli – and arrived in Niamey, Niger in the evening.

The repatriation, in close co-operation with the Embassy of the Republic of Niger in Tripoli and the Consulate of Niger in Sabha, the municipal council in Sabha, the Libyan Red Crescent in Sabha and the Department for Combatting Illegal Migration (DCIM), was funded by the UN Central Emergency Response Fund (CERF) and the Kingdom of the Netherlands.

The group included six medical cases – two with visual impairments and four with high blood pressure. On board was 57-year-old Aminata from the Nigerien Tuareg tribe. She arrived in Sabha in 1993 together with her five children, two of whom later died during the tribal war between the Tabu and the Tuareg that ended earlier this year.



*“War took two of my sons, destroyed our house and caused my health problems but until now I could not return to Niger because of my tribal affiliation and the lack of the necessary money to pay for our return,” she explained to IOM. “This trip provides me and my family with a new beginning. We will at least be safe!”*



Many of the returnees on the flight expressed similar experiences that their tribal affiliations prevented them from returning home by land because of the conflict which spread along the road between Sabha and the border with Niger.

The charter flight came at a time when many of the stranded Nigeriens in the south had been suffering from poor conditions with limited access to health services due to the limited resources in the south of Libya.

Considering the security, economic, tribal and humanitarian situation in the south of Libya, this latest repatriation is different from the several others facilitated by IOM from Mitiga airport in Tripoli, explained IOM Libya’s Operations Team Leader Kamal Al Sherif. “Despite all the challenges, this group of migrants is very lucky. Ten minutes after the flight departed, the whole region was blacked out when there was an extensive power cut.”

Before departure, all migrants received counselling, fit-to-travel medical check-ups and a hot meal. In addition, a mobile patrol from the Sabha Security Committee escorted the buses to Taminhint airport.



On 20 September, IOM Libya helped 160 stranded Burkinabe migrants, including 13 women, 9 children and 4 infants to return to Burkina Faso from Libya.

The repatriation – carried out in close cooperation with the Libyan authorities, the Burkina Faso Embassy in Tripoli and the IOM office in Burkina Faso – was by charter flight from Tripoli’s Mitiga Airport to the Burkinabe capital Ouagadougou.

Before departure, the migrants stayed overnight at a shelter organized by the Burkinabe embassy in Tripoli, where IOM Libya staff provided food and hygiene kits. A mobile patrol from the Tripoli Security Committee escorted the buses to Mitiga airport.

Most migrants told IOM staff that they arrived in Libya using a much used route (Burkina Faso – Niger – Qatroun – Sabha – Tripoli). They paid smugglers between USD 800–USD 2,000 per person and the journey took between two weeks and a month, during which time they were forced to scrounge for food and water. During their stay in Libya, migrants reported struggling just to survive, but mainly due to widespread insecurity and crime as well as lack of employment opportunities. Being constantly at risk of being robbed or held for ransom was the hardest part, many told IOM staff.



*“I arrived in Libya one year ago, after paying smugglers USD 500 in Niger to take me to Sabha (Libya),” explained Aniss, 21. “I would go daily, sunrise to sunset, to the station seeking work, getting hard labor for low wages to pay for my food and shelter. I would pay 40–50 Libyan Dinars if stopped at a check point. Once my friend Usama didn’t have cash, so they searched him and took his phone.”*





## Capacity Building

On 21-22 September, IOM and UNHCR jointly organized and facilitated a regional workshop on strengthening protection at sea in the southern Mediterranean sea region in Tunis.

The event brought together officials from Morocco, Libya, Tunisia and Italy, as well as representatives of the EU naval mission (EUNAVFOR Med) and academics to consider the humanitarian challenges faced in search and rescue of migrants and refugees crossing the Mediterranean.

During the two-day event participants reviewed the mechanisms and cooperation efforts deployed in the southern Mediterranean by first responders to identify best practices, including standard operating procedures developed in Tunisia, and maximize the capabilities to save lives at sea and properly manage post-disembarkation activities.

“We have gathered for this workshop with the aim of identifying common approaches to saving lives at sea and prevent loss of life. With a global count surpassing 40,000 fatalities since 2000, there is no more urgent time than now to discuss how to better coordinate our search and rescue and disembarkation operations in the Mediterranean and beyond,” said IOM Senior Regional Advisor for the Middle East and North Africa Hassan Abdel Moneim Mostafa.



IOM local partners at the coordination meeting on 27-29 September. Photo: © IOM 2016

On 27—29 September, IOM organized a coordination meeting within the activities of the projects: Establishing a Displacement Tracking Matrix (DTM) system and Saving lives in mixed migration flows from Libya.

The three day meeting, which was held in Tunis, gathered representatives from 12 Libyan implementing partners. Throughout the meeting the representatives from the local organizations discussed the NGOs meeting in Tripoli and their different activities with a focus on the health assistance for migrants. The participants will discuss a further plan of action related to the direct assistance given to migrants and internally displaced persons.



## Community Stabilization

On 19-20 September, IOM Libya brought together municipal and community leaders from Sabha in southern Libya, as well as Libyan Ministry representatives, to discuss shared goals and priorities for an IOM community stabilization program.

The two-day meeting held in the Tunisian capital, Tunis, was opened by IOM Libya Chief of Mission Othman Belbeisi, and was attended by nine representatives from the Sabha community, including the Mayor of Sabha, Hamed Rafah Alhiali, and two representatives of the Libyan Ministry of Local Governance, Abdulmajid Abugrara and Fathi Cherif.

*“It is a significant achievement to have been able to bring together these community leaders and bridge the divide between different groups across Sabha as a first step in building mutual understanding, collaboration and trust. On this basis we will work together closely to strengthen dialogue and stability, and to implement projects that will serve the good of Sabha as a whole,”* said program manager Sandra Huang.

Community stability and social cohesion are critical in Sabha, which has become one of the biggest transit points on the migration route for migrants who enter southern Libya. Sabha residents also face challenges in security, social friction, and insufficient public services, such as electricity and water. These shortages can intensify a sense of marginalization and neglect. Cherif from the Libyan Ministry of Local Governance said:

“

*The project[s] will contribute directly to the stability of the country and I hope IOM will dedicate a lot of effort to succeed and pass it on to other cities in southern Libya. The local community will benefit on all levels and most of the projects will directly impact Libyan citizens.*

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During the community stabilization workshop with partners from Sabha. Photo: © IOM 2016





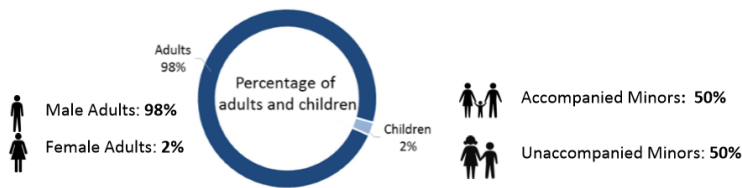
## Displacement Tracking Matrix (DTM)

IOM Libya released its second **Flow Monitoring statistical report** on 15 September. The report presented statistical analysis of data captured on 3,324 migrants transiting across 14 Flow Monitoring areas in Libya between the period of 15 August and 4 September.

The main nationalities of migrants identified were Egypt, Sudan and Chad, and the main reported countries of intended destination were Libya, Italy and France.

Ninety-eight % of migrants identified were adults, the majority of whom (98%) were male, and 2% were minors, half of whom were unaccompanied.

<b>Main Nationalities:</b>	<b>Main Countries of Intended Destination:</b>
1. Egypt	1. Libya
2. Sudan	2. Italy
3. Chad	3. France

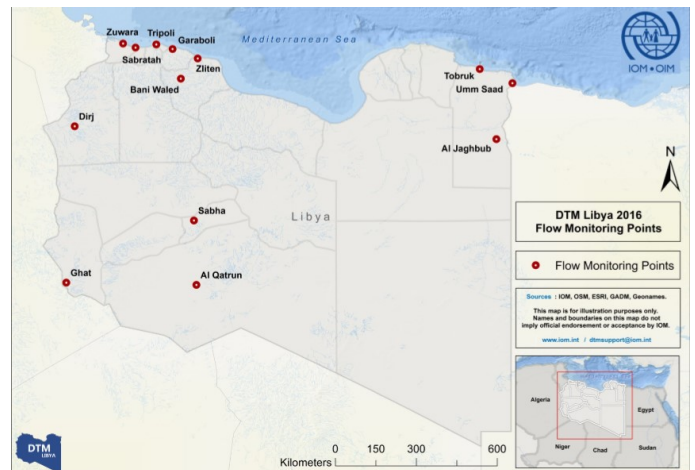


**DTM is funded by EU's Humanitarian Aid and Civil Protection Department (ECHO) and United Kingdom's Department for International Development (DFID).**

IOM successfully trained a select group of 26 enumerators on DTM's Flow Monitoring methodology and approach. Each Flow Monitoring area is monitored by two DTM enumerators collecting information at the main transit points identified by DTM's Mobility Tracking initiative. Data collected in each area is triangulated with key informants, verified by IOM in Libya (Tripoli) and cross-referenced with IOM's Mobility Tracking data by DTM's experts in Tunis. The areas are grouped into 6 monitoring regions, as listed in the following report.

DTM aims to track migrants irrespective of the causes, voluntary or involuntary, and the means, regular or irregular. DTM's methodology to track migrants is two-fold, firstly to regularly identify and map locations and estimates of numbers of migrants currently transiting through a selected location and secondly to regularly identify and profile sample caseloads of migrants transiting through each location.

The full report can be found [here](#).



### IOM operations are supported by:

