



Return assistance home to Nigeria on 14 February. Photo: ©IOM 2017

On 6-7 February, IOM convened Community Management Committees from Al Qatrun to discuss the programme's achievements and challenges in 2016, and to plan for 2017.

IOM has held a 5-day training (20-25 February) for managers and staff of Libyan detention centres on The Promotion and Protection of Migrants' Human Rights.

Three chartered flights were organized in February, a total of 506 stranded migrants were able to return home through the voluntary return assistance.

IOM Libya's Displacement Tracking Matrix (DTM), has released its 2016 Flow Monitoring overview report, providing a comprehensive analysis of over 8,000 surveys conducted with transiting migrants throughout Libya in 2016.

SITUATION OVERVIEW

The power struggle between the House of Representatives (HoR), based in the north-eastern city of Tobruk, the UN-backed Government of National Accord (GNA) led by Fayez al-Sarraj and the Tripoli-based General National Congress (GNC) continues. At the same time, the Libyan National Army continues to be involved in geographical and resource power struggles, making advances across the country.

On 17 February, the country commemorated the revolution with celebrations of the 6th anniversary of 17th February Revolution.

However, tension has been high in the capital Tripoli, where violent clashes have at several times erupted between rival militia groups in different areas of the city, including Abu Salim, where all types of weapons were reportedly being used. In addition, the convoy of High State Council President Abdulrahman Sweihli and Presidency Council President Fayez Sarraj came under attack of "heavy shooting" from an unknown assailant.

On an economic note, the Central Bank of Libya announced that it had taken hold of a new amount of paper currency, LD 250 million. In addition, Libya's oil output has so far exceeded 700,000 barrels per day (bpd), the board member of the National Oil Corporation (NOC) Jadallah Al-Okli, stated in an interview in Egypt.



DIRECT ASSISTANCE

For the month of February, 1,192 migrants received non-food items, clothes, slippers, blankets and diapers through IOM staff and local partner Multakana.

During a two-day intervention, 762 internally displaced families currently in Sirte suburbs, received non-food aid including mattresses, winter blankets, pillows as well as hygiene kits. The distribution was done with the help of our partners Ayadi Al Khir, Ahali Sirte Association and Sirte Crisis Committee.

A total of 2,302 internally displaced families (approximately 11,510 individuals) received hygiene kits, pillows, mattresses and blankets through local partners Multakan, STACO, SPOD, Ahrar Libya, and Assalem Bani Walid organization.

4,700 winter blankets were also delivered to Tripoli and will be distributed to migrants and IDPs in need.



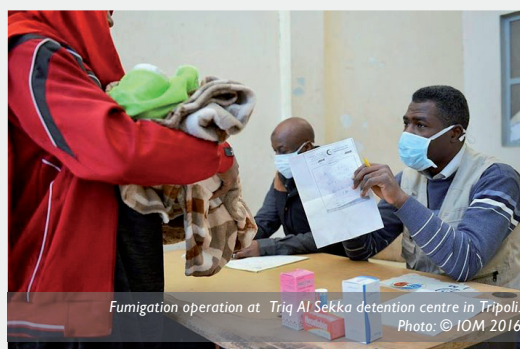
The transportation of non-food aid from Tripoli to southern Libya.
Photo: © IOM 2016

HEALTH SUPPORT

Through local implementing partners, IOM has assisted 462 migrants in need of medical care in February. The medical cases included symptoms and diseases such as upper respiratory tract infection, tonsillitis, fever, vitamin and minerals deficiency, myalgia and headache.

In addition, on 15 February, in Shuhada Al Nasr detention centre, a 26-year-old Nigerian lady gave birth to a baby girl. Both the mother and baby are in good health.

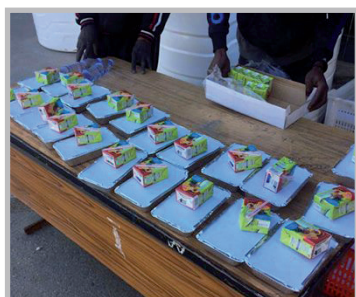
Also at Az Zawiyah's Shuhada Al Nasr detention centre, prior to a non-food aid distribution for 680 migrants, a fumigation and anti-scabies treatment was conducted, with the assistance of local partner STACO, with the aim to prevent the spread of communicable diseases.



Fumigation operation at Triq Al Sekka detention centre in Tripoli.
Photo: © IOM 2016

FOOD EMERGENCY INTERVENTION

IOM has responded to an urgent appeal from several international humanitarian agencies concerning deteriorating conditions at migrant detention centres throughout the country. The situation was particularly critical at Al Fallah detention centre in Tripoli, described as "life-threatening" after all regular food supplies were stopped in the beginning of December. On 7 January, the emergency food intervention expanded to include Tripoli's Abu Salim detention centre, which also started facing problems feeding its more than 100 migrants. At Al Fallah, the intervention has throughout February included 3 meals per day. On 28 February, the then 72 migrants in Abu Salim detention centre received three meals, the last day for IOM's emergency food intervention in the centre, as an agreement was made where the detention centre management would continue the food provision. In the meantime, the intervention at Al Fallah continues to make sure the centre's migrants receive food.



RESCUE AT SEA

Rehabilitation work at Garabuli disembarkation point was completed on 26 February. Rest rooms for women and men were installed, in addition to the health clinics that already have been installed at the disembarkation point. IOM is also working to set up a migrants' receiving area, which includes a shade to protect the migrants from the burning sun.

In addition, in the months of February, IOM engineers conducted several assessment for the detention centres Al Kararrim in Misratah, Al Khums centre and Triq Al Sekka in Tripoli. rehabilitation is planned to begin by next month.

Despite harsh winter conditions, migrants continue to embark on the perilous journey across the Mediterranean Sea. In 2016, 18,904 migrants were rescued in Libyan territorial water. Whilst during the months of February 2017, 1,394 migrants were rescued in four different incidents off Tripoli, Az Zawiyah, Zuwara and Al Khums. IOM is working to support rescued migrants through humanitarian assistance including non-food items and hygiene kit distribution, as well as health assistance.

In addition, in the month of February, 102 bodies were retrieved along the western coastal strip. On 20 February, 74 bodies were washed ashore in Az Zawiyah, west of Tripoli, the majority of which were onboard a boat. As of February, a total of 144 bodies have been retrieved.

AS OF FEBRUARY,

2,202

RESCUED IN 2017



VOLUNTARY RETURN ASSISTANCE

On 21 February, 172 stranded Nigerian migrants, including 110 women, 49 men, seven children and six infants, received return assistance home to Nigeria from Tripoli, Libya.

"I was working as an electrician back in Nigeria," explained 26-year-old Abaeze*. But a man from a criminal group portrayed Europe as heaven and Abaeze was kidnapped. He paid a lot of money for nothing. "Don't believe everything you are told," he would like to advise others in a similar situation.

Home in Lagos, IOM helped all the migrants with onward travel to their home addresses. Of the 172 migrants, the 19 most vulnerable were also eligible for IOM's reintegration support, giving them the opportunity to start a business or continue their education. IOM will also pay the cost of medical treatment that they need as a consequence of their time in Libya.

In addition, on 14 and 16 February, IOM organized two charter flights to help two groups totaling 334

migrants to return home to Nigeria and Senegal from Libya.

Many of the migrants spoke of the hardships they had endured in Libya, the difficult economic situation that resulted in them losing their jobs, and how they had become stranded.

Two young women, aged 20 and 18, told IOM they had been in Libya since October last year. They came to Libya aiming to reach Europe. But after losing three of their friends at sea, they decided it was better to return home.

Fisayo*, 28, spoke of a similar experience. He sold everything he owned and paid 3,500 Libyan dinars to reach the coastal town of Zuwarah. He eventually decided that the Mediterranean route was too dangerous and decided to return home to Nigeria.

As of February, IOM Libya helped 589 stranded migrants return to their countries of origin, of whom 117 were eligible for reintegration assistance.



During one of the interactive sessions of the five-day training. Photo: © IOM 2016

CAPACITY BUILDING

IOM has held a five-day training (20-25 February) for managers and staff of Libyan detention centres on The Promotion and Protection of Migrants' Human Rights inside the Detention Centres.

The training was designed to build the capacity of detention centre authorities to ensure that migrants in detention centres are treated in a way that upholds their dignity and fully respects their human rights.

Directorate for Combatting Irregular Migration (DCIM) officials from five detention centres (Abu Sleem, Triq Al Sekka, Triq Al Matar, Ghariyan and Al Khums) participated in the training, which also included improving their knowledge on identifying vulnerable groups, addressing their needs and enhancing existing referral mechanisms.

"A strong young man rescued at sea can be a vulnerable case too. Vulnerability is not about gender, it's about the circumstances a person has had to face," explained anti-human trafficking training expert Dr Joana Daniel-Wrabetz. "DCIM deals with these cases daily and this training is not about pointing fingers, it's about sharing information and finding solutions," she added.

The training also included sessions on migrants' rights, the links between human trafficking and smuggling, external communication and protection, as well as how to interview and protect vulnerable migrants. Most of the problems raised by the detention centre staff were linked to the lack of sanitary facilities and the risk of the spread of communicable diseases.

"It's very important to talk about the health situation and to know how to reduce the risk of contagious diseases for the migrants and for ourselves as well," said Makram Mabrouk, one of the training participants.

PROTECTION

Vulnerability assessments and counseling have been conducted in Triq al Shook, Triq Al Sekka and Abu Slim detention centres in order to identify vulnerable cases and their needs. During the visits 47 child protection interviews were conducted and 40 migrants were offered the opportunity to call their families in their home countries. One young unaccompanied migrant child who lost his parents on the sea and is currently held in a detention facility in Libya has received counseling by IOM and one of its local partners in Libya. IOM in the country of origin has been informed about the young child and is doing what they can on the receiving end to trace his family for the child to return as soon as possible.

In addition, on the three chartered flights of February, IOM has assisted 4 victims of trafficking, and 9 unaccompanied migrant children, who received family tracing assistance, accomplished with the assistance of IOM Nigeria and IOM Senegal.

Tiwa, a young Nigerian woman, described to IOM how she was forced into prostitution by a criminal gang in Libya. Today she has a son. "I don't know who the father is but I named him after my father who died when I was 3-years-old," Tiwa told IOM, "Now I want to return to my country with my son." She, among with 171 other Nigerians, received voluntary return assistance home on 21 February.

Furthermore, two vulnerable migrants, one suffering from mental illness and another who is a survivor of severe torture, were assisted with medical and shelter assistance. Both will be returning to their countries of origin within short. A third migrant suffering from mental illness was also provided with medical assistance and assistance with family tracing.



One of the migrant women, carrying her baby before returning home through IOM. Photo: © IOM 2016

COMMUNITY STABILIZATION

The Community Stabilization program's Recreation Centre teams in Sabha and Al Qatrun have conducted six activities in schools and other community venues. The main objective is to release psychological stress among the children and youth beneficiaries through cultural and recreational activities, including listening sessions, social theatre, music and sport. Activities also raised awareness among adult men and women on the benefits of community participation and health education. Together these activities reached 167 beneficiaries, 95 in Sabha and 72 in Al Qatrun.

IOM also convened Community Management Committees (CMC) in Sabha and Al Qatrun, southern Libya, to discuss the programme's achievements and challenges in 2016, and to plan for 2017.

During the two two-day meetings (30-31/01 and

06-07/02), IOM and CMCs addressed challenges encountered in 2016 and the importance of engaging communities to prioritize and shape project activities.

The meeting included technical sessions emphasizing coordination mechanisms, as well as the roles and responsibilities of the various project stakeholders, in order to support the delivery of improved services, expanded opportunities and strengthened capacities to benefit the communities as a whole.

"Having more educational space for students through the provision of mobile classrooms was remarkable last year in Al Qatrun," said Hawa' Ali, a civil society activist who is a CMC representative from Al Qatrun, reflecting on activities that have been realized. "We are hoping to implement more similar activities this year," he added.

DISPLACEMENT TRACKING MATRIX

IOM Libya's Displacement Tracking Matrix (DTM), has released its 2016 [Flow Monitoring overview report](#), providing a comprehensive analysis of over 8,000 surveys conducted with transiting migrants throughout Libya in 2016.

The surveys, which were carried out with a sample of migrants at Flow Monitoring Points – key locations that transiting migrants pass through – gathered information on migrants' nationalities, educational backgrounds, employment experience, motivations for leaving their countries and intended destinations.

The report highlights the diversity of the population of migrants transiting Libya. The main countries of origin were Niger, Egypt, Sudan, Nigeria and Chad. Also among the top 10 nationalities surveyed were migrants from Mali, Senegal, and Burkina Faso. The main nationality among female migrants surveyed, however, was Nigerian – followed by women from Niger, Egypt and Sudan.

The majority of migrants were unemployed prior to departing their countries, and 88 percent reported having left for economic reasons. Others reported leaving due to limited access to basic or humanitarian services, war or political conflict. Migrants intended either to remain in Libya or to continue on to Italy, France, Germany, or elsewhere in Europe, due to a variety of reasons.

DTM has also released its Displacement Event Tracker, which bi-weekly reports on incidents related to IDPs, returnees and migrants, especially in regards to large population movement updates.

DTM's Event Tracker is sourced via DTM staff and partners and is triangulated with data collected through DTM's Mobility Tracking and Flow Monitoring components. All data reported in the Event Tracker is considered as reported and validated in all final reports published by DTM's Mobility Tracking and Flow Monitoring projects.

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