



LIBYA: HUMANITARIAN SUPPORT TO MIGRANTS AND IDPS

INTERNATIONAL ORGANIZATION FOR MIGRATION



SITUATION REPORT - MARCH

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In celebration of the official mother and children's day on 21 March, the festival "Smile, Childhood gathers us" took place on 25 March.

IOM Libya's Displacement Tracking Matrix (DTM), has released its Internal Displacement in Libya – 2016 in Review.

Festival for more than 1,000 children. Photo: ©IOM 2017

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.

At the same time, conflicts have flared up in parts of the country with escalation of violence in the oil crescent region, which threatens to escalate the overall conflict and consequently also damage the contested oil installations. Clashes also erupted in the capital Tripoli during three days of fighting between rivaling armed groups before a ceasefire was reached. In addition, a peace deal between the Tebu, Tuareg and Awlad Suleiman tribes was signed in the end of March in Rome.

On an economic note, in mid-March oil production was around 620,000 barrels per day, a senior Libyan oil official reported, after one of the pipelines briefly blocked by militants was reopened. Furthermore, in the end of March, the Libyan dinar for the first time passed seven to the US dollar, as the Central Bank of Libya received a further 150 million Libyan dinars of banknotes.

The political instability and strained economy affects all parts of society. IOM continues to support migrants inside and outside detention centres, as well as internally displaced persons and other affected communities through different humanitarian interventions.



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DIRECT ASSISTANCE

On March 2017, 1,830 migrants received non-food items (mattresses, pillows, blankets, hygiene kits, clothes, slippers and diapers) with the help of IOM's implementing partners LRC, STACO, Multakana and Al Nasr organization at Trig al Seka, Shuhada al Nasr, checkpoint in Zuwarah and Triq al Shook detention centre.

Of the total number of migrants assisted, 1,536 had been rescued at sea. Most of the migrants rescued at sea are in dire need of assistance.

“We are currently enhancing the emergency response to rescued migrants as we are witnessing an increase in migrants risking their lives at sea,” explains Emergency Project Assistant Olfa Bakouch.

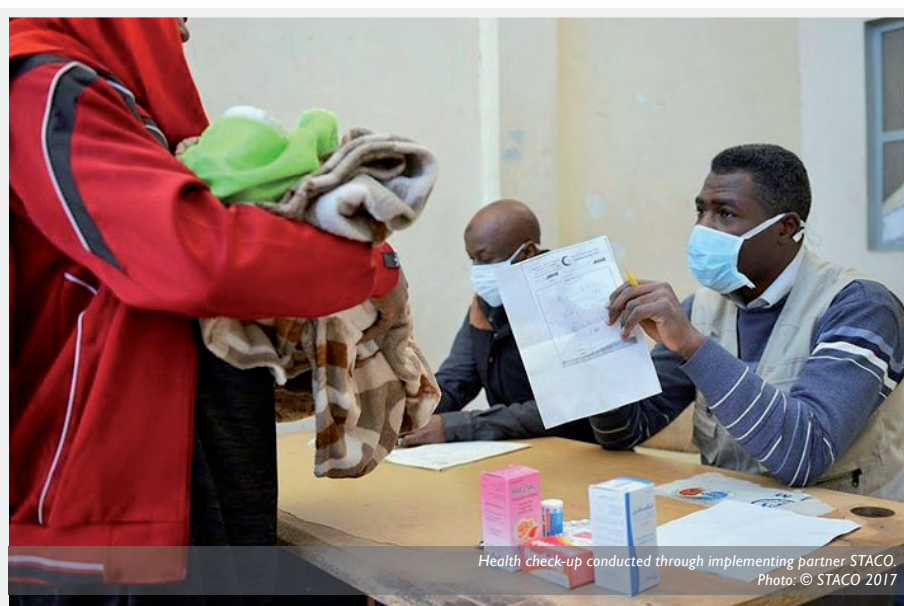


HEALTH SUPPORT

A total of 312 migrants patients received medical assistance during the month of March, 264 of which were treated during the regular visits to detention centres, in addition to 48 emergency cases (a majority treated for 2nd degree burns).

The most common diseases included allergies, urinary tract infection, intestinal colic, chest infection, skin infection, burns, cold and cough, scabies, and tonsillitis. The majority of migrants came from Nigeria, Sudan, Senegal, Burkina Faso, The Ivory Coast, Mali, Cameroon and Sierra Leone.

The health support was conducted in coordination with IOM's implementing partner STACO.





Return assistance to Senegal on 16 February. Photo: © IOM 2016

VOLUNTARY RETURN ASSISTANCE

During the month of March, 1,139 stranded migrants were able to return home to their countries of origin and 185 of them received reintegration support.

On 7 March, IOM helped 171 stranded Nigerian migrants – 76 men and 95 women – to return home from Libya by air.

Two days later, on 9 March, IOM assisted another 141 stranded Gambians – all men – to return home to Banjul. It was IOM Libya’s first charter flight to the Gambia. Maris* was working as a hairdresser in Nigeria, when she met a man who promised to find a decent job for her in Libya and to ultimately help her reach Europe. After reaching Libya, she was forced to work as a hairdresser without pay in horrible conditions. “I did not see the sun for four month,” she told IOM. “I am glad that I am being helped to get home,” she added.

On 171 stranded Nigerien migrants, including one woman and one unaccompanied minor returned home to Niger yesterday through our voluntary return programme.

On 14 March, 98 stranded migrants, including 96 men and two women received voluntary return assistance home to Guinea Conakry from Libya. Unfortunately, due to clashes

in Tripoli, 51 migrants living in urban areas, who were sheltered by the Guinean-Conakry Embassy for one night prior to the day of departure, were unable to make the flight. These migrants will therefore be assisted to return home via commercial flights as soon as possible. IOM will continue to assist them through commercial flights.

In addition, on 12 March, IOM worked with Libyan authorities to facilitate the visit of embassy representatives from Cote d’Ivoire, Guinea Conakry, Ghana, Niger and the Gambia to Triq Al Sekka detention centre. During the visit, the delegation representatives discussed possible release conditions of their nationals and observed the living conditions inside the centre.

During the visit IOM identified 135 migrants who expressed willingness to return to their countries of origin and has initiated the return assistance process. The visit was funded by the European Union and the Kingdom of the Netherlands.

**All migrant names have been changed to protect identities.*

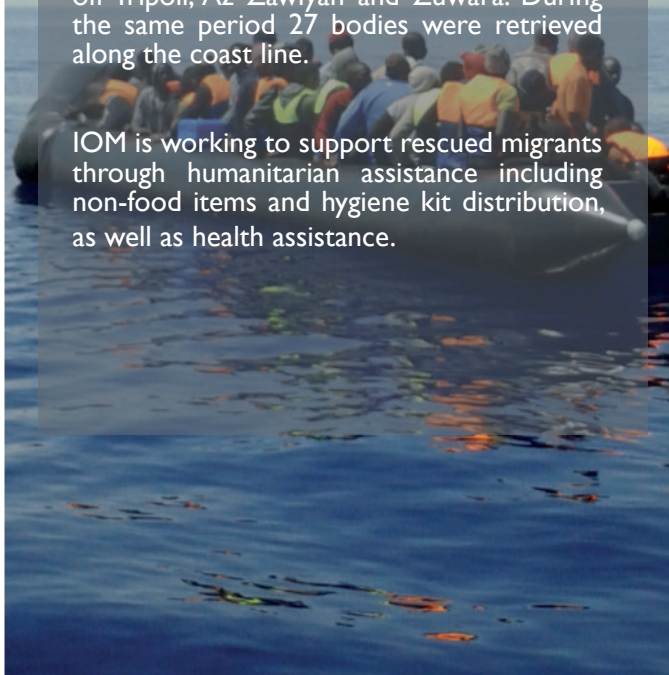
RESCUE AT SEA

During the month of March, IOM has held first aid and health care trainings in Zuwara, Al Khums and Az Zawiyah for 76 actors involved in rescue at sea operations, including the Libyan Coast Guard, the Libyan Red Crescent and the Port Security.

The trainings were held parallel to the provision of 600 first aid kits to six disembarkation points along the Libyan coastline. First aid kits, life jackets, saving rings, torches and batteries were delivered to the Libyan Coast Guards and Port Security at the disembarkation points of Garabouli and Zliten with the aim to strengthen the capacity of actors involved in rescue at sea operations.

In the month of March, 1,480 migrants were rescued at sea off the Libya coast, the majority off Tripoli, Az Zawiyah and Zuwara. During the same period 27 bodies were retrieved along the coast line.

IOM is working to support rescued migrants through humanitarian assistance including non-food items and hygiene kit distribution, as well as health assistance.



AS OF MARCH,

3,682

RESCUED IN 2017

PROTECTION

In celebration of the official mother and children's day on 21 March, the festival "Smile, Childhood gathers us" took place on Saturday 25 March in Tripoli.

Children and mothers from the local community, migrants and displaced families enjoyed a full day of painting, arts and theatre activities as well as a carnival in Abu Salim's park. Together with 18 local NGOs and CSOs, the festival offered children from different cultural backgrounds and with mental and physical disabilities a full day of games, drawing and fun.

The festival also serves as a positive break from the last weeks of violence in the area leaving many children and adults distressed. One of the main organizers of the festival, the psychosocial support team (PSS) changed the activities to include the visiting parents and their children.

"Bringing joy and putting a smile on a child's face is a great source of hope for Libya," explained Senior Protection Assistant Amina Elhouderi following the event.

In addition, in March we have received a request for 57 protection case mainly unaccompanied minor children. Assistance such as family tracing, phone calls and return was also provided to 27 unaccompanied minor children and one victim of trafficking.



COMMUNITY STABILIZATION

Within the framework of celebrating the International Women Day which took place on 8 March, and in partnership with Om Al Mo'meneen Center for Women and Youth Support in al Qardha City, the psychosocial support team in Sabha has organized an event for 43 women (31 from the host community and 12 IDPs mainly from Sirt, Tawergha and Ubari). Participants have attended awareness sessions about women's rights in Libya and enjoyed recreational activities aiming to bring them all together regardless of their backgrounds.

On the occasion of Mother's Day that took place on 21 March, IOM Psychosocial Support team organized a ceremony honoring mothers in Al Qatroun for 167 host community, IDPs and migrants. The ceremony was held in Al Manara School, it consisted of recreational activities, songs and poetry presented by students to their mothers as well as theatre plays about the important role mothers play in the lives of each family. The celebrations ended with awards distributed to mothers.

IOM Psychosocial Support Teams in Sabha and Qatroun have implemented during the month of March various activities that were provided to a total number of 990 beneficiaries. The activities consist of:

- Forty-two recreational activities for students aged between 4 and 15 years consisting mainly in entertaining games, storytelling, drawing, music and sports.
- Five focus group discussions for IDPs and migrants about challenges of integration and steps towards positive communication and social cohesion.
- Three awareness sessions about Women's rights, role of Youth in peace building.

DISPLACEMENT TRACKING MATRIX

On 17 March, DTM Libya published its Internal Displacement in Libya – 2016 in Review, which presents a comprehensive overview of Libya’s human mobility patterns, trends and dynamics for 2016. The report also provides an analysis of Libya’s internally displaced persons (IDP) displacement drivers, shelter settings, primary needs and demographics categorized by period of displacement.



granulated data on migrants at key Flow Monitoring Points.

The report tracks migrant flows within the country at key entry, exit and transit points for migrants. Data collected at each point includes the number of migrants present, migrant arrivals and departures observed, along with main nationalities, modes of transport used to arrive and depart, the last location where migrants came from and their next intended destination. Data was also collected on the length of stay of migrants at each point.

During the reporting period, 10,122 migrant arrivals and 11,091 migrant departures were observed across assessed Flow Monitoring Points in Libya. Findings indicate that 40% of migrants present had been at the observed points for 6 months or more. The majority of migrants were adult (97%) and male (97%). Of the minors observed, 60% were unaccompanied.

The first, a brief migration analysis published on 24 March analyzes regional migration flows across Niger, Libya and Italy relying on data from DTM and the Italian Ministry of Interior.

DTM Libya followed with a Flow Monitoring Statistical Report published on March 27, presenting data on migrant flows in the country between 15 December and 15 February. This was the first report where data was collected using the programme’s updated 2017 methodology, which gathers more

IOM’s DTM Libya program concluded two coordination meetings in Tunis on the 27 and 28 March for its Mobility Tracking and Flow Monitoring data collection teams. These were the latest in a series of activities and publications from the program in the last two weeks. The meetings provided an opportunity for field enumerators and team leaders based in the East, West and South of the country to meet in person, exchange information, discuss challenges they face in their data collection efforts and work on solutions to overcome them and arrive at a representative picture of mobility and displacement dynamics in Libya.

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