

SITUATION REPORT



The second group of stranded Senegalese, having departed from a detention centre in Misrata/Libya on their way to Djerba International Airport, before returning back home.

OVERVIEW

As the security situation in Libya continues to deteriorate, there is still a high number of migrants trapped inside Libya, since the border between Libya and Egypt/Tunisia remained practically closed to most of them. Many of them also do not have sufficient means to organize their onward travel to their country of origin.

The consequences have exacerbated the flood of migrants trying to leave Libya and reach Italy via the Mediterranean Sea. This is reflected in the extraordinary high numbers of migrants arriving at the Italian shores during this summer. Migrants in such destitute conditions risk getting into overcrowded and dilapidated boats which has led to an estimated number of 3187 deaths in 2014. This trend has even continued in the first months of 2015, with an estimated number 300 migrants having perished in one single incident on 11th February 2015, when several migrant boats got into difficulties due to extremely bad weather conditions in the Mediterranean Sea.

HIGHLIGHTS

Evacuation of **658 migrants** from 18 different countries accomplished, most of them directly out of Tripoli.

The second movement of **138 Senegalese** departed via a **charter flight** out of Tunisia, following being transported across Libya from the detention centre in Karreem/Misrata to the Tunisian border in Ras Ajdeer. Another charter flight is planned to evacuate the remaining group of Senegalese in the coming weeks.

More than **2600 NFI's** distributed among people in need in different parts of Libya, including migrant detention centres.

IOM RESPONSE



NFI NON-FOOD-ITEMS

IOM Libya is continuing to distribute Hygiene Kits and other NFIs to displaced families and stranded migrants inside Libya, as well as to assess further needs. IOM has finalized the second round of distribution of 900 NFI kits to IDPs, as well as stranded migrants in detention centres, which included cities east of Sirte and in the south, close to Sabha.

EVACUATION

As Libya continues to be rocked by instability and violence, IOM Libya has been facilitating evacuations and returns of vulnerable migrants from sub-Saharan Africa. The first flight out of Djerba, Tunisia on 27th February evacuated 133 Senegalese migrants, having been stranded at the Karareem Reception Centre in Misrata. A second flight holding 138 individuals reached Senegal in the early morning hours of 6th March, bringing back the majority of Senegalese stranded in detention centres in Libya back home, whereas the approximately 140 Senegalese migrants remaining inside Libya are just receiving their travel documents and thus are set to leave within the coming weeks.

The coordinated operation was once again carried out with the invaluable support by Libya's Ministry of Interior, the Libyan Red Crescent, ICRC and Libya's Directorate for Combating Illegal Migration (DCIM). This evacuation operation is funded by the European Union (EU), together with Norway. Another charter flight is scheduled close to the end of March. whereas further migrant groups. There are still over four hundred migrants of other nationalities stranded inside Libya, mainly from Burkina Faso, Gambia, Kenya, Sudan, Togo and Yemen, who have turned to IOM for return assistance and will be booked on commercial flights, in order to provide also other nationalities assistance for a safe return to their home countries. A major challenge to these evacuations is most migrants' lack of proper travel documentation. With almost all foreign representation having left Libya, the renewal or issuance of travel documents needs to be organized via consular services in neighbouring countries.

This all is happening while the number of migrants risking a Mediterranean crossing from Libya during the stormy winter months is steadily increasing; almost 8,000 migrants arrived in Italy in January and February of 2015, with nearly 1,000 coming from Senegal and Gambia. Over 600 lives have been lost in the Mediterranean Sea so far this year, far exceeding the 100 deaths during the same period in 2014.



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