



A first batch of 133 stranded Senegalese, having departed from a detention centre in Misrata/Libya arrived at Djerba International Airport, on their way 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 **520 migrants** from 18 different countries accomplished, most of them directly out of Tripoli.

The latest movement of **133 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.

Further 2 charter flights are planned for 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 assess displaced families and stranded migrants inside Libya, in order to distribute Hygiene Kits and other NFIs. IOM is currently in the process to finalize the second round of distribution of NFIs to IDPs and stranded migrants in various regions of Libya.

EVACUATION

Which is planned as the first of many evacuations of stranded third country nationals in the coming weeks or months, IOM Libya organized the successful departure of 133 Senegalese men from the Karareem reception centre in Misrata, Libya, and their flight home from Tunisia. The evacuees are part of a group of 401 Senegalese IOM plans to return to their homeland over the next week, and perhaps the first of thousands who will be able to leave Libya safely after months of waiting.

The group departed Misrata on Thursday (26. Feb.) afternoon in three buses in a convoy that also included an ambulance and a two-vehicle police escort. The drive to Libya's border with Tunisia took about six hours, with the convoy arriving shortly before midnight. The men spent the next nine hours in their buses until they cleared Tunisia's passport control on the following morning.

The coordinated operation included Libya's Ministry of Interior, the Libyan Red Crescent, ICRC and Libya's Directorate for Combating Illegal Migration (DCIM). The evacuation was funded by the European Union (EU) and Norway. IOM's EU-funded "START" project: "Stabilizing at risk communities and enhancing migration management to enable smooth transition in Egypt Libya and Tunisia" has invested nearly EUR 10 million in the region since 2012. The Norwegian government-funded project: "Return and reintegration assistance for migrants stranded in Egypt and Libya" started in December 2013 and has contributed NOK 4.1 million (EUR 478,000) to IOM return assistance from Libya and Egypt.

Further charter flights are scheduled for the first two weeks in March, with the aim to return the remaining stranded Senegalese safely back to their home country. According to our office in Dakar, all the migrants have been granted the sum of 100,000 F CFA (170 USD) by the President for their reintegration.



Funding for IOM Libya's emergency operations is provided by



This programme is funded
by the European Union



ROYAL NORWEGIAN
MINISTRY OF FOREIGN AFFAIRS



외교통상부
Ministry of Foreign Affairs And Trade



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and Civil Protection