



LIBYA: HUMANITARIAN SUPPORT TO MIGRANTS AND IDPS

INTERNATIONAL ORGANIZATION FOR MIGRATION

SITUATION REPORT • 30 November 2015



Highlights

A stranded migrant from Mali is happy to enter the bus to Mitiga International Airport in Tripoli, in order to be reunited with his family and relatives (Left). A Malian migrant, who was staying overnight in the premises of his Embassy in Tripoli, is provided with food and drinks (Right). © IOM 2015 (Photo: IOM Tripoli)

■ 1,104 migrants from 26 different countries have been repatriated since the outbreak of the crisis in July 2014, the majority of them directly out of Tripoli, or via Tunisia. In 2015, 754 migrants have been supported by IOM Tripoli to travel back to their home countries, so far.

■ Since July 2014, 8,132 IDP families and 11,683 migrants have benefitted from the distribution of NFIs and hygiene kits in different parts of Libya, including newly displaced IDPs from Awbari (South) and Warshafana (West) during this month.

■ In November, IOM organized the safe return of 40 migrants to their country of origin. In addition, one charter flight from Tripoli to Bamako, Mali was scheduled to leave on 1st December 2015. Further charter flights will be organized in the coming months.

Situation Overview

IOM's Coordination Office for the Mediterranean reported that around 2,170 migrants arrived in Italy by sea in November. In the first week of December, normally a month when fewer arrivals are happening, IOM has already registered – in just over 4 days – more than 4,900 migrants.

The flow of migrants heading to Italy has slowed significantly in the recent weeks of November, partly because of poor weather. However, in just the first days of December, the Italian coastguard rescued almost 2,000 migrants from 11 boats that were attempting to cross the Mediterranean and reach Italy. It was the largest number of migrants reported saved en route to Italy in more than a month. Most of the migrants are coming from sub-Saharan Africa and set sail from Libya in rickety boats provided by people smugglers.

More than 140,000 migrants have reached Italy this year out of a total of almost 900,000 who have arrived in Europe, most of them entering via Greece.

IOM continued to provide urgently needed humanitarian assistance to migrants who have been rescued at sea, as well as to those in migrant retention centres, but also intensified its efforts to increase the number of migrants able to leave Libya and be reunited with their families and relatives.

CONTACTS

Othman BELBEISI
+216 29 600 389

✉ obelbeisi@iom.int
🌐 <http://www.iom.int/>

IOM RESPONSE



NFI and Shelter

During November, IOM Libya distributed NFIs and Hygiene Kits to 253 IDPs families in Janzour/Tripoli, who recently had to leave their homes in Awbari (South) and Warshafana (West) due to new armed clashes erupting in those areas; and 200 IDPs families in Ben Walid and further 200 families in Tarhouna. As far as migrants are concerned, IOM's implementing partners provided migrants in Suq Al-Ahad retention centre with 340 NFI Kits (mattresses, blanket and pillow), as well as the same numbers of Hygiene Kits. Another distribution of NFIs provided 763 migrants in Al-Qwea'a and Musrata with clothes and Hygiene Kits, as well as 8 Hygiene Kits to migrants in Sourman.



A doctor of a mobile medical team is visiting migrants in retention centres © IOM 2015 (Photo: IOM Tripoli)

In addition to the above, IOM scheduled regular visits of medical teams to three retention centres (Sourman, Musrata, and Al-Qwea'a) to perform medical screening and referral of those cases, who are in need of specialized medical attention.



Humanitarian Repatriation

IOM continued to provide humanitarian repatriation assistance to migrants stranded inside Libya. IOM organized the safe return of one family of 3 to Sudan, 23 migrants to Burkina Faso, one family to Mali (4 members), 5 women to Indonesia (2), Uganda (2), and to Kenya (1); and finally 5 migrants to Guinea Conakry (including one women). In addition, IOM Libya finalized the pre-departure arrangements for 170 stranded migrants from Mali, including 13 women and 3 infants, in order to leave Libya via a charter flight scheduled to depart from Mitiga International Airport in Tripoli on the 1st of December, arriving at Bamako in Mali on the same day. This movement was organized in close coordination with the Embassy of the Republic of Mali in Tripoli, who also accommodated all single migrants for an



Migrants are provided with food and drinks while staying overnight within Mali's Embassy in Tripoli © IOM 2015 (Photo: IOM Tripoli)

overnight stay within the premises of the Embassy, where IOM staff distributed food, beverages and hygiene kits to all of them, while the families joined them just for the day of departure. Almost all migrants entered Libya irregularly, through smuggling networks from Algeria to Libya, whereas only a few of them entered through Niger. IOM spoke to the these departing migrants and gathered some of their experiences:

Migrant Stories

The majority of the returnees were previously detained in migrant retention centers after having failed to cross the Mediterranean Sea to reach Europe, says one of the migrants, called Musa, who is 27 years old.

He goes on to say: "I was detained twice and I managed to leave the detention after paying 600 LYD (450\$) each time".

Another migrant woman called Myriam told IOM: "I paid around 1,000 USD to the smugglers to bring me to Tripoli via Algeria. It was a hard, exhausting one-month trip. Then, 1,200 LYD (920 USD) to the smugglers in Zwara to cross the sea...I have suffered a lot in order to get together again with my husband in Spain, but now I am so grateful to the IOM for



Migrants from Mali gather in the premises of the Embassy, waiting for their bus bringing them to the airport © IOM 2015 (Photo: IOM Tripoli)

ending my misery and bringing me back to my baby in Mali.” The rest of the migrants came to Libya and managed to find work for some time, but have now decided to return home, because of the deteriorating living conditions, lack of security and bleak job opportunities. Amina, a widow with four children, said: "After my husband died one year ago, I started to work as a servant. I didn't have time for my children, and I was earning just enough money to survive. But now our life has become unbearable in Libya — thus, I have decided that it's better to go back".

Makan, a 33 year old migrant explained that he was shot in the leg, and that his bone was broken by a bullet. A gang of criminals fired at him, when they broke into their homes and stole all their money, their mobiles, and everything else of value. It took him months to recover from the surgery, not even being able to get up and stand on his own feet without help. He paid 2,000 LYD (1,535 USD) for his treatment at the Al Mokhtar clinic, spending all his savings he had earned. He is thankful that IOM can help him to return to his home country to be reunited with his friends and relatives after all this ordeal.



Migrants lining up at Mitiga International Airport before boarding their plane leaving for Bamako © IOM 2015 (Photo: IOM Tripoli)

On the departure day, IOM provided all migrants with a breakfast and lunch, while buses were organized to bring them to the airport, where the chartered airplane was already waiting for them. The flight departed at 20:10 Libya local time and arrived in Bamako – Mali in the same day at 23:25 local time. The funds for this charter were provided by the EU and the Italian Ministry of Interior, under the project called SAHMED. IOM will organize further charter flights in the coming months, in particular to Burkina Faso, Senegal, and Mali.



Capacity Building

Within the ECHO funded project “Establishing a Displacement Tracking Matrix (DTM) system in Libya for tracking the most affected and most vulnerable people displaced by the crisis & Enhancing Saving Lives in Mixed Migration Flows from Libya”, IOM organized a four-day training workshop in Tunis for 31 participants from 4 Libyan NGOs. The training workshop was organized in order to strengthen their knowledge on mobility tracking, thus building the capacities within key implementing partners to collect accurate data all-over Libya, utilizing a standardized methodology which IOM has tested and refined in the course of several emergency settings.

Workshop participants will subsequently train other staff from their respective organizations in order to increase the pool of such “enumerators” and allow timely data collection over the coming months. The data collected will be analysed and regularly shared with other humanitarian actors engaged in Libya.

At the beginning of November, IOM and UNHCR Libya have organized the 2nd Technical Workshop and Coordination Meeting for Libyan partners related to “Saving Lives at Sea”. The workshop was a follow-up initiative to the first workshop carried out in late July.

This series of workshops and meetings are aiming to enhance the response capacities of Libyan authorities involved in operations related to the rescue of refugees and migrants off the Libyan coast.



Othman Belbeisi, CoM IOM Libya, making opening remarks for the ECHO funded workshop © IOM 2015 (Photo: IOM Tripoli)

IOM operations are supported by :



Funded by the European Union



MINISTERO
DELL'INTERNO



Schweizerische Eidgenossenschaft
Confédération suisse
Confederazione Svizzera
Confederaziun svizra

Eidgenössisches Justiz- und Polizeidepartement EJPD
Staatssekretariat für Migration SEM



Humanitarian Aid
and Civil Protection