

SITUATION REPORT



IOM distributed food to migrants through its local partner *Moltakana* in the Abu Sleem Detention Centres in Tripoli. The food was prepared by IDP women over the last 5 days in the holy month of Ramadan. (13.07.2015) © IOM 2015

With the help of its local partner *Ayadina*, IOM gathered women from different IDP communities in Benghazi to cook for 40 vulnerable IDP families over 3 days during Ramadan. (12.07.2015) © IOM 2015

OVERVIEW

A deadly milestone has been passed*, when for the first time this year more than 2,000 migrants have been reported as having died while trying to cross the Mediterranean to reach Europe, confirming this as the deadliest route for migrants in search of a better life. In the same period last year, 1,607 migrants perished. While Italy and Greece have experienced similar inflows of migrants of around 97,000 and 90,500 respectively during 2015, the death rates are very different. While over 2,000 migrants have lost their lives trying to reach Italy, only about 60 died trying to reach Greece during the same period.

The latest tragic loss of life took place at the end of July when a total of 19 people lost their lives in the Channel of Sicily. The remains of 14 of the migrants were brought to the Sicilian port of Messina, who were part of a larger group of 456 people rescued at sea. According to survivors, the engine of the boat in which they were travelling overheated and the drinking water on board had to be used to cool it. Fourteen migrants subsequently died of heat exhaustion and thirst. Despite these tragedies, the extraordinary efforts of maritime forces in the Mediterranean continue to save migrants at sea on a daily basis, with 188,000 migrants having been rescued so far this year. IOM believes that more migrants will attempt to reach European shores as the summer progresses, and the 200,000 mark could be reached very soon.

* IOM Italy, *Deadly Milestone as Mediterranean Migrant Deaths Pass 2,000*; (www.iom.int/news [04.08.2015])

HIGHLIGHTS

997 migrants from 18 different countries have been repatriated, most of them via Tunisia or directly out of Tripoli since the outbreak of the crisis in July 2014.

More than **5,578 IDP families and 6,733 migrants** have benefitted from the distribution of NFIs and hygiene kits in different parts of Libya, including those accommodated in migrant detention centres.

During the holy month of Ramadan, IOM has carried out through its local partners on the ground a number of **psychosocial activities**, aiming at IDP communities and migrants detained in detention centres. The activities were organized in the wider area of **Tripoli**, as well as **Benghazi**, which has suffered from a long period of intensive fighting between the Libyan National Army and various militia groups.

In addition, and with the aim to build up and strengthen capacities of Libyan partner organisations and governmental institutions, IOM has organized two training events, one of them aiming at enhancing the Libyan response capacities on Saving Lives at Sea, held in collaboration with UNHCR in Tunis/Tunisia. The second capacity building event tried to raise the capacity of local civil society organizations from South and East Libya, in providing psychosocial support.

IOM RESPONSE

NFI NON-FOOD-ITEMS

During the month of July, IOM distributed NFIs mainly in the South and North Eastern part of Libya. Local implementing partners distributed hygiene kits to 1685 migrants in Zawiya, Al-Khums, Misrata, Subrata, Tajoura and Abu Sleem, as well as diapers, summer blankets and sanitary pads to female migrants in Surman detention center. In addition, 1528 IDP families in the area of Ghat, Tajoura, Abu Sleem, Warshifana, Janzour (IDPs from Kickla), Sabha and Subrata received sets of NFIs, including mattresses, blankets, pillows, as well as hygiene kits through IOM local partners.



PSYCHO-SOCIAL ACTIVITY

In Tripoli, through its local partner the *Moltakana Center* (translated: “Our Meeting Point”), IOM selected 10 IDPs women from different displaced communities in Abu Sleem area, and provided them with ingredients, cooking materials and a kitchen to cook over 4 days, while allowing them to sharing their displacement experience. After cooking, participants took portions of the food to their families, while the majority of the food was distributed, offering *Ramadan Iftar* and *Sahoor Ramadan*, to 572 migrants in the Abu Sleem migrant detention centre, 135 youth and children with special needs from IDP and host community families, as well as approx. 100 vulnerable IDP families in the Abu Sleem area from 12 - 15 July. In addition to this, IOM also organized a football competition for youth, IDPs and the host community, cultural and poetry events, as well as clowns for IDPs and host families. Another local partner, *Ayadina* (translated: “Our Hands”) gathered also 30 IDPs women from different displaced communities in Benghazi, in order to prepare meals for approximately 390 people (120 IDP families) over 3 days. The food was prepared according to the local customs, eaten together also in compliance to the local customs, in a females-only environment.



CAPACITY BUILDING

Between 26 - 30 July 2015, and with the aim to optimize the response of local partners to the humanitarian crisis inside Libya, IOM's implementing partner, the *Psycho-social Support Team*, organized a training in Tripoli, on how to provide psycho-social support for 25 members of different NGOs and humanitarian engaged citizens from Fezan region (18 participants), Benghazi (4), Tripoli (3) and Sirt (1). Furthermore, and in close collaboration with UNHCR, IOM organized a two-day technical workshop for Libyan partners on saving lives of migrants off the Libyan coast. The workshop, which took place from 29 - 30 July in Tunis and was funded by the European Commission Humanitarian Aid and Civil Protection department (ECHO), was attended by 19 officers from the Libyan Coast Guard and Port Security Department, the Directorate for Combatting Illegal Migration, and two members of the Libyan Red Crescent. The meeting provided a unique opportunity to assess the current situation and procedures related to saving lives at sea, including the identification of vulnerable migrants and the provision of immediate humanitarian assistance when they disembark at a Libyan port or harbour.



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