

## SITUATION REPORT



The last group of stranded Senegalese, which included also one woman and 13 minors, are starting their journey to move from Misrata to the Libyan border, in order to take a plane back to Senegal.

### OVERVIEW

As the security situation in Libya continues to be challenging, there is still a high number of migrants trapped inside Libya, considering that the border between Libya and Egypt/Tunisia remained practically closed to most of them. Without proper travel documents or insufficient means to organize their onward travel back to their country of origin, many choose to head towards Europe across the Mediterranean Sea.

This is reflected in the extraordinary high numbers of migrants arriving at the Italian shores with approx. 170.000 having departed from Libya and arrived in Italy during 2014. Migrants in such destitute conditions, are taking any risks in order to get into any vessel, even if overcrowded and not seaworthy, in order to leave Libya. Bad weather conditions, together with technical breakdowns of such boats, have led to an estimated number of 3187 deaths last year.

This trend has also continued in the first months of 2015, with an estimated number 300 migrants having perished in one single incident on 11<sup>th</sup> February 2015, when several migrant boats got into difficulties due to extremely bad weather conditions in the Mediterranean Sea.

### HIGHLIGHTS

Evacuation of **788 migrants** from 18 different countries accomplished, most of them either via Tunisia or directly out of Tripoli.

The last movement of **130 Senegalese** departed via a **charter flight** out of Tunisia. This group also included one woman, as well as 13 minors, who got stranded inside Libya due to the ongoing conflict.

More than **2600 families** and **1,100 migrants** have benefitted from the distribution of NFI and hygiene kits in different parts of Libya, including those in a number of 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 is also responding to urgent calls for support of migrants in detention centres, since resources by the Libyan Directorate for Combatting Illegal Migration are almost depleted.



In collaboration and support of the International Medical Corps (IMC), the distribution of 310 NFI and hygiene kits to migrants in the Abu Sleem Detention Centre (DC), following an urgent request by the Directorate for Combatting Illegal Migration (DCIM), caused by the temporary closure of the Twaisha DC and relocation of the migrants to Abu Sleem and Alzawayh DCs. The decision to close Twaisha DC, the biggest in Tripoli, was taken by DCIM, because it's proximity to an area where armed conflicts are happening.

## 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. It took nearly 24 hours to bring the last of three planeloads of Senegalese migrants from Libya on 19 March. But with the arrival of this last group in Dakar Friday morning, IOM completed its mission begun on 27 February. The last group of 130 migrants brings to 401 the total number of Senegalese nationals evacuated from Libya by IOM in a complicated operation involving securing assistance from the Libyan Red Crescent and Libya's Directorate for Combating Illegal Migration (DCIM). Further close collaboration was extended by the Government of Tunisia, which provided assistance to the IOM team at the country's border.

The passengers, 129 males and one female, included 13 minors who had been detained in Libya late last year. Most of the 401 assisted by IOM were working informally in Tripoli until the middle of last December, when they were seized in a pre-dawn raid on a compound of buildings where more than 1,000 sub-Saharan migrants were living. From Tripoli the detainees were taken to a holding facility in Misrata, where one of the Senegalese migrants managed to contact IOM with a mobile phone he had hidden when he was arrested. That started a chain of events that led to IOM securing the aid of Senegal's Ministry of Foreign Affairs, which helped secure travel documents for the detainees who volunteered to return to their country. The first flight left the airport at Djerba, Tunisia, on 27 February, following a 24-hour journey from Misrata to the Libya-Tunisia border, then a long wait while authorities from both countries reviewed the travel documents of the evacuees. A second flight filled with evacuees arrived in Dakar on 5 March.



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