



The 4th charter flight organized by IOM, leaving from Djerba International Airport, will reunite 142 stranded Senegalese migrants with their families, after having departed from a migrant retention centre in Misrata and crossing into Tunisia in the evening hours of the 25th May.

OVERVIEW

By 27 May 2015 IOM has counted 40,395 migrants arriving at Italy's shores since the beginning of this year, with the main nationalities being sub-Saharan Africans, Eritreans, Syrians, Somalis and Ethiopians - nations plagued by years of brutal conflict and hardship. In increasing numbers, among those taking on the dangerous journey across the Mediterranean on overcrowded boats —to Italy and once again to Greece as well—are women and children, down to the age of new-borns.

Just within the last 3 days of May, more than 5,000 migrants have been saved from boats in distress in the Mediterranean on their way to Europe, according to EU authorities. In addition, 17 corpses were brought ashore in Sicily, after they were found on three dinghies that contained more than 300 migrants who were rescued.

The huge spike in the number of people trying to cross the Mediterranean Sea in recent weeks has been attributed to the worsening security situation in Libya, as well as the milder weather. The harsh conditions faced by the migrants at sea, where they have to endure extreme weather changes and are at risk of hunger, thirst and violence on board of often crammed and flimsy vessels has also impacted the death toll - more than 1,800 migrants have died this year alone - a 30-fold increase on the same period in 2014.

HIGHLIGHTS

935 migrants from 18 different countries have been repatriated, most of them via Tunisia or directly out of Tripoli.

More than **2900 IDP families and 4,300 migrants** have benefitted from the distribution of NFIs and hygiene kits in different parts of Libya, including those accommodated in migrant detention centres.

IOM has organized another **charter flight** out of Djerba International Airport/Tunisia, evacuating further **142 stranded Senegalese migrants** out of the Kararim migrant retention centre in Misrata, back to Senegal.

IOM is currently processing a similar group of detained migrants from **Senegal and Gambia**, to be brought from the migrant retention centre in Misrata back to their home countries in the coming week(s) - as soon as all are in possession of valid travel documents and are medically cleared for travel.

IOM RESPONSE

NFI NON-FOOD-ITEMS

During the month of May, IOM distributed NFI and Hygiene kits to migrants in AAI-Zawyah, Surman and Al-Zawyah Retention Centres, as well as in Abu Sleem and Al-Kums. In addition, 639 IDP families in the area of Al-Swani and Abu Sleem/Tripoli, received mattresses, blankets, pillows and Hygiene Kits, distributed by local partners of IOM. With the ultimate goal to enhance NFI distribution inside Libya, IOM presented the *Displacement Tracking Matrix* (DTM) during a workshop organized by UNHCR and DRC, explaining the kind of data that can be collected, the methodologies in collecting data, how it is used, and what the best practices are in other regions related to IDP tracking.

In addition, another Coordination Meeting was organized in Zarzis/Tunisia in May, which is part of a series of similar meetings funded under the ECHO project. These exchange of information allows IOM to get updated figures on the displacement of IDPs in various areas inside of Libya, as well as to optimize and further streamline the assistance provided to those communities in certain parts of the country. IOM is also further responding to regular calls by Libyan authorities, namely the Coast Guards and DCIM, for support to migrants who have been rescued at sea close to the Libyan shores.

EVACUATION

IOM Libya evacuated a further 142 stranded Senegalese migrants from Misrata and Tripoli, on a charter flight leaving from Djerba airport in Tunisia. The group arrived in Dakar on May 26 in the morning and was met at the airport by the Secretary of State for Senegalese Abroad, Mr. Souleymane Jules Diop. As this was already the fourth such evacuation in recent months, this latest group included also nine minors. IOM worked in close coordination with the International Committee of the Red Cross (ICRC), which took care of the initial registration and photographs of the applicants for the issuance of new travel documents, provided by the Senegalese Embassy in Tunisia.

The Libyan Red Crescent conducted the medical screening of the migrants before leaving the Kararim migrant retention centre and provided also transportation from Misrata to Tripoli and then to the Tunisian border at Ras Jdir. This involved a convoy of three buses, an ambulance and a two-vehicle with police escorts, to make sure that the migrants reach the border in time. Since the break out of this crisis in mid July last year, IOM managed to organize the travel of 935 migrants from 18 different countries to return home safely.

IOM is planning to arrange another charter flight in the coming weeks, which will allow the inclusion also of a bigger group of Gambian migrants on the flight to Dakar, where they will receive onward travel assistance to their final destination. This latest evacuation was carried out under the IOM's European Union-funded "START" project: "Stabilizing at risk communities and enhancing migration management to enable smooth transition in Egypt Libya and Tunisia" which has invested nearly EUR 10 million in the region since 2012.



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