



LIBYA: HUMANITARIAN SUPPORT TO MIGRANTS AND IDPS

INTERNATIONAL ORGANIZATION FOR MIGRATION

SITUATION REPORT • 31 October 2015



Highlights

Distribution of NFIs in three retention centres, after IOM had sterilized and disinfected the centres which had deteriorated (Left). A second group of five Bangladeshi migrants left Libya, after having been rescued by the Libyan Coast Guard following a shipwreck in late August (Right). © IOM 2015 (Photo: IOM Tripoli)

■ 1,064 migrants from 19 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, 714 migrants have been supported by IOM Tripoli to travel back to their home countries so far.

■ Since July 2014, 7,279 IDP families and 10,572 migrants have benefitted from the distribution of NFIs and hygiene kits in different parts of Libya, including 121 migrants, who were rescued at sea by the Libyan Coast Guard on the 8th of October.

■ During October, IOM has organized the safe return of five migrants to their country of origin. Movements are still hampered by the cancellation of commercial flights to some of the main destinations used as transit points to their countries of origin.

Situation Overview

“We know how many people arrive in Italy, but we will never know how many people actually depart from Libya. We think that there are shipwrecks that remain unknown and unfortunately the total of 2,860 recorded deaths in the Mediterranean is probably an underestimation” - Flavio Di Giacomo, IOM spokesperson in Italy.

The Libyan Red Crescent reported that at least 148 dead bodies of migrants who have drowned in the Mediterranean Sea have washed ashore in just three weeks in October. This comes amid a change in the mixed migration flows from Libya towards Italy, where some 8,565 migrants have arrived to Italy in October, while last year the total number of migrants who landed in Italy during the whole month of October was 15,279. The decrease is probably due to the fact that Syrians are now reaching Europe through Greece. Excluding Syrians, the number of arrivals of other nationalities has still increased significantly compared to 2014.

IOM continues to provide timely and urgently needed humanitarian assistance to migrants who have been rescued at sea, as well as to those in migrant retention centres. During October, IOM distributed 121 hygiene kits to migrants rescued at sea in Tajoura upon their disembarkation, as well as 1,216 non-food item (NFI) and hygiene kits to migrants accommodated in Alquewa, Misrata, Surman and Al Khums migrant retention centres. The distribution of NFI and hygiene kits in Surman, Misrata and Alquewa took place immediately after IOM had sterilized and disinfected these centres, since they are frequently used to accommodate women and children.

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IOM RESPONSE



NFI and Shelter

During the month of October, IOM accomplished the clean-up and disinfection of three migrant retention centres. IOM was working with its partners to improve the sanitary and living conditions in the centres in Surman, Musrata and Al-Qwea. The clean-up work started in the 2nd week of October, during which several site visits were organized by IOM's implementing partners, together with the contracted company. After the disinfection operation had been completed, a training on how to maintain good sanitary



Disinfection work done in one of migrant retention centres © IOM 2015 (Photo: IOM Dhaka)

conditions in the centres was delivered to the staff, and required items were distributed (gloves, face masks, basins, mops, rubber brushes, and plastic sprayers).

Brochures with tips on how to carry out facility cleaning and maintain good sanitary conditions, as well as personal hygiene, were distributed to the migrants and staff in the centres. After the disinfection was completed, a full set of



After the disinfection has been completed, new NFIs were handed out to the migrants. © IOM 2015 (Photo: IOM Dhaka)

NFIs (mattresses, pillows and blanket), hygiene kits, clothes and shoes were distributed to all migrants accommodated in these centres. Since then, the staff are cleaning and disinfecting the floors, walls, toilets, and roofs three times a day, as it was recommended during the training.



Humanitarian Repatriation

IOM also continued to provide humanitarian repatriation assistance to migrants stranded inside of Libya. IOM organized the safe return of five Bangladeshi nationals to Dhaka, all of whom were part of a group of migrants rescued at sea following a shipwreck off the Libyan coast in late August. In addition to their safe return to Bangladesh, IOM will also provide the returnees with reintegration assistance. In the meantime, the Foreign Ministry of Bangladesh has strongly advised Bangladeshi nationals against travelling to war-torn Libya until further notice.

Around 40,000 Bangladeshis are currently living in uncertainty in Libya. In peril, some have been forced to take risky voyages through the Mediterranean into Europe. With the latest return of migrants to Dhaka, IOM has provided repatriation assistance to a total of 714 migrants from 14 different countries since the start of 2015.



Capacity Building

IOM organized the monthly coordination meeting for its implementing partners between 18 – 19 October. Five local NGO representatives attended the meeting to discuss the progress of intervention activities carried out inside Libya. Major challenges and future plans were also discussed to help feed into the strategic planning of future operations.



Training on how to maintain proper sanitary conditions at migrant retention centres © IOM 2015 (Photo: IOM Libya)

Two sessions were devoted to presenting and discussing the establishment of IOM's Displacement Tracking Matrix system and plans for rolling it out in all of Libya. IOM experts shared their methodology for collecting data on IDPs and migrants in Libya.

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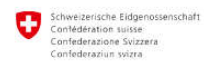
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