

IOM LIBYA

08 January 2015

SITUATION REPORT





OVERVIEW

Three years after the fall of the former regime, the Libyan people find themselves nowhere closer to realizing their hopes and aspirations for a better future, as the new Head of UNSMIL reported on Tuesday to the Security Council in New York, noting the urgency to take advantage of a "small window of opportunity" for a peaceful resolution of the crisis.

Since July, heavy fighting has erupted in the city of Tripoli, when an alliance of armed groups primarily from the city of Misrata, launched "Operation Dawn" against the Zintan, allied with fighters from the Warshafana region west of Tripoli. The fighting was particularly intense around Tripoli International Airport, but affected other large areas of Tripoli as well.

IOM estimates that still there are more than 150,000 migrant workers in Libya of which 5,000 might be vulnerable and in need of evacuation assistance, transit or border reception, health

HIGHLIGHTS

Evacuation of **354 migrants** of 13 different nationalities accomplished via Tunisia, Cairo or directly out of Tripoli

More than 1900 NFI kits distributed among people in need within Tripoli city area, as well as other regions affected by the armed clashes

More than **350** migrants from different countries tracked and scheduled to receive repatriation support through the IOM network

3 capacity building trainings for humanitarian stakeholders from Libya organized in Zarzis/Tunisia.

services and psychosocial support. Based on IOM's previous experience and response to the crisis in 2011, and recognizing the importance of providing reintegration assistance, there is also a need for post-arrival and family reunification support in countries of origin.

As the security situation in Libya had continued to deteriorate, there have also been a high number of migrants trapped inside Libya, since the border between Libya and Egypt/Tunisia remained practically closed to them. Many of them also do not have sufficient means to organize their onward travel to their country of origin.

The consequences have exacerbated the flood of migrants trying to leave Libya and reach Italy via the Mediterranean Sea. This is reflected in the extraordinary high numbers of migrants arriving at the Italian shores during this summer. Migrants who are in destitute conditions risk getting into overcrowded and dilapidated boats which has led to an estimated number of deaths in 2014, put at 3187 migrants, close to the end of the year.

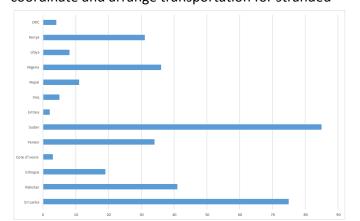
IOM RESPONSE



IOM Libya is continuing to assess displaced families and stranded migrants inside Libya, in order to distribute Hygiene Kits and other NFIs, suitable to prepare them for the upcoming, colder winter period. IOM has just finished the distribution of 900 sets of NFIs, which included mattresses, blankets and cooking utensils, among IPD communities and migrants in detention centres in the wider area of Tripoli, as well as Obari, Misrata, Bani Walid and Benghazi, through an IOM lead network of local, humanitarian NGOs.



With IOM having still a fully operational team situated in Tripoli, the office is still able to coordinate and arrange transportation for stranded



migrants directly out of Libya. Although the security environment is still volatile, resulting that airports are shut down and closed on a short notice, as well as planes are leaving Tripoli with sometimes extensive delays, IOM Libya – with the assistance of IOM offices in Cairo and Tunis, as well as others in countries of transit and destination – was able to arrange the movement of 354 migrants of 13 different nationalities so far - some of them even with special assistance needs, like medical care or escorts for unaccompanied minors.



Following two trainings already carried out in September, a third 2-day training was organized on 16 December 2014, in Zarzis — Tunisia, with 16 participants from the NGOs Network for Psychosocial support, Libyan Crises Committee, Tahir Al-Zawi Organization, Libyan Relief Organization and the Moltakana Centre attending. All of them will be IOM's partners on the ground and further involved in the distribution of NFIs in Libya.

The training aimed at improving their understanding of identification of vulnerable groups, best practices in assessing the urgent needs and enhancing the awareness on provision the protection and direct assistance. Through this training, IOM is specifically focusing on Counter Trafficking Concepts; Identifying Migration Impact; Raising the awareness on victims of trafficking and Psychosocial support.

354 Migrants

supported to be repatriated to their country of origin or new home destination.

More than 350 stranded migrants

tracked inside Libya, in order to provide evacuation and travel assistance when travel ready.

> 1900 NFI kits

distributed among migrants and IDPs in need.

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