Humanitarian Bulletin Libya: The crisis that should not be



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Credit: WHO

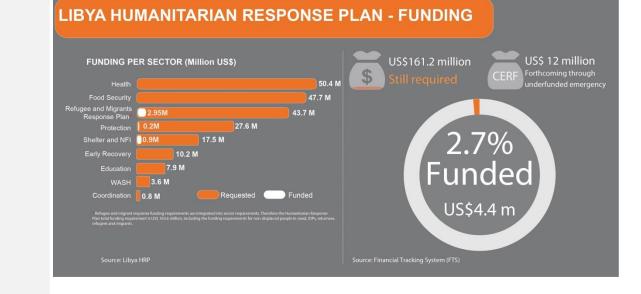
Medical health supplies arrives to the country

Escalating crisis amidst depleting resources

Despite progress in political negotiations, the humanitarian situation in Libya continues to deteriorate. Sporadic fighting across the country, particularly in Tripoli, Benghazi, Sirte, Adjabia, Ben Jawad and Al-Kufra, cause additional displacement and destruction. The situation is characterized by damage to health care facilities, critical shortage of life-saving medicines, vaccines, food, and serious protection concerns.

The **lack of resources** is the second single biggest obstacle after fighting to responding to the needs of the affected population and implementing Libya Humanitarian Response Plan (HRP). Since the HRP was released in November 2015, only US\$ 3.7 million in contributions have been received, amounting to just two per cent of the requested. With humanitarian funding in 2015 totaling just \$19 million, aid agencies are now exhausting the last of their resources. This will result in breaks to critical food and health supply pipelines and the interruption of life-saving programmes, affecting at least 1.2 million people. Internally Displaced Persons (IDP), refugees, and migrants are amongst those with the fewest resources – interruptions in humanitarian assistance will impact them heavily.

The Central Emergency Response Fund (CERF) is allocating US\$ 12 million to support emergency programmes in Libya, through its underfunded window. The allocation will support up to 350,000 people including IDPs, refugees, and migrants. However, this contribution will only be enough to ensure some critical needs will be met for a short period of time. Additional funding from other donors is required to leverage this investment and ensure life-saving programmes continue.



HIGHLIGHTS

- The Humanitarian Response Plan (HRP) is underfunded, with only 2 per cent received.
- Life-saving health medicines and food assistance will end in March due to pipeline breaks, affecting 1.2 million people.
- Over one million children under the age of five will be affected by vaccine pipeline breaks.
- Displacement tracking improves through the introductions of a Displacement Tracking Matrix
- 60,000 children in 28 different cities will benefit from educational and recreational kits.

FIGURES

Total Population	6.3 M
# of people in need of humanitarian assistance	2.4 M
# of IDPs	435,000
# of refugees	100,000
# of migrants	150,000

Total Requested US\$165.6 million

Humanitarian Coordinator calls for increased international support

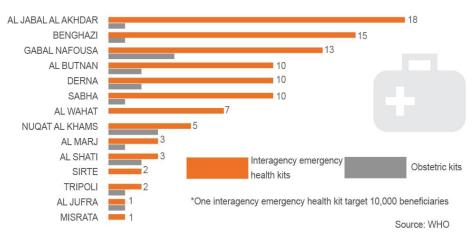
Funding is urgently needed to support the most vulnerable.

The Humanitarian Coordinator for Libya appealed to the international community to increase their support of the most vulnerable in Libya. The Libya HRP calls for \$165.6 million to assist 1.3 million people, out of a total 2.4 million people in need of humanitarian assistance and protection in Libya. The HRP presents a coherent and effective roadmap for the humanitarian operation in Libya. It prioritizes assistance in the face of a collapsing health care system, widespread threats to civilian protection, and failures in the provision clean water and proper sanitation services. Women and children are particularly vulnerable in Libya, as are Libyans displaced by conflict and refugees, migrants and asylum seekers. Without international support, humanitarian actors are unable to continue ongoing programmes or respond to new developments.

Health system attacked and weakened

More than 40 per cent of the health facilities in Libya are not functioning, affected by ongoing conflict, a lack of medical personnel, and limited electricity. Maternal health issues including; unsafe abortion; lack of postnatal and antenatal care are on the rise. Births at home without a trained birth attendant are now on the rise. Health personnel have fled the country. More than 80 per cent of all nursing staff were evacuated in 2014. Attacks on health care workers also continue, with five health workers killed and more than 20 health facilities damaged in the past 18 months alone.

With more than 40 per cent of health facilities are not functional.



An acute shortage of life-saving medicines throughout hospitals and clinics across Libya is further threatening the provision of health care. The World Health Organization (WHO) has helped fill critical gaps by supplying life-saving medicines to the hospitals and clinics. Inter-agency emergency health kits were prepositioned in the Ministry of Health warehouses in the month of January 2016, to cover the lifesaving needs of 1 mission beneficiaries.

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This report was prepared by the United Nations Office for the Coordination of Humanitarian Affairs in collaboration with humanitarian partners.

Distribution of health kits in different locations

Shortfalls in funding are now threatening to interrupt this life-line of support, affecting up to 1.2 million people. The supply of essential vaccines will also be interrupted, affecting over one million children under the age of five. WHO's pipeline will break after 31 March 2016 unless funding is immediately received. The health sector requires a total of \$50 million in 2016.

Benghazi Mental Health Hospital evacuates



Distribution of Trauma kits

The Benghazi Mental Health Hospital has been targeted by repeated attacks and bombings, which has forced the hospital team to evacuate their patients to school premises in Benghazi. The school premises lack the medical infrastructure and space required to properly treat patients. Two hundred patients (50 women and 150 men) are squeezed in a single floor at the school. The hospital team reported a complete lack of medical supplies and budget, which prevents them from meeting the needs of patients. The health sector is currently working with the Ministry of Health to move the patients to new hospital premises. Sector partners are providing medicines, equipment and covering some refurbishing costs.

Food security decreases and pipeline breaks

Decreasing food availability, increasing food prices, and decreasing availability of cash are causing food security in Libya to deteriorate. Difficulties in accessing ports and road closures have caused reductions in food imports and an increase in food prices. In some areas, food prices have grown by as much as 200 per cent. A growing liquidity crisis in Libyan banks, brought on by a high fiscal deficit, is limiting the amount of cash available to families, further reducing their ability to purchase food. As a result, some 1.3 million people are food insecure. IDPs and refugees, asylum seekers and migrants are particularly at risk of food insecurity, suffering grave nutritional consequences that affect physical and mental health.

In the face of these increasing challenges and despite funding shortfalls, the World Food Programme (WFP) and its partners STACO and LibAid provided food aid to over 60,000 people in western and southern Libya and around 6,500 in Benghazi in January 2016. WFP aims to assist 210,000 each month in 2016, pending sufficient funding.

WFP is working with local crisis committees to identify the most critical Libyan families and communities in need, and with UNHCR to identify refugees. Given the complex and volatile nature of the conflict in Libya, WFP is operating remotely from Tunis and is monitoring its assistance through a thirdparty monitor called JMW Consulting. Beneficiaries have the opportunity to provide feedback on distributions via a hotline number.



Credit: WFP Delivery of food assistance in Tripoli

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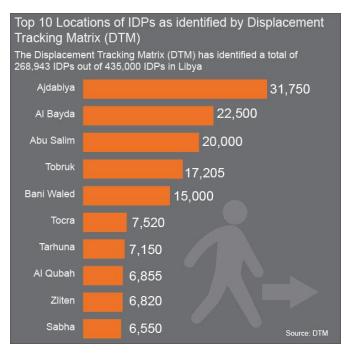
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1.3 million people in Libya are in need of food assistance. A lack of funding will cause a break in WFP's food pipeline in March if additional support is not urgently received. Some \$48 million is required for food security programmes in 2016. Chronic funding shortfalls in 2015 caused several food pipeline breaks during the year, the most severe of which spanned a three-month period from September to November.

Displacement tracking improves

An estimated 435,000 Libyans have been internally displaced since mid-2014, when the conflict deteriorated and political instability increased. Humanitarian actors expect more people to be displaced as the security situation remains unstable.

To improve monitoring and documentation of displacement trends, IOM is rolling-out a **Displacement Tracking Matrix** (DTM), through support from ECHO and DFID. A baseline assessment was conducted in January 2016, during which nearly 268,943 IDPs, out of a total estimated 435,000 IDPs in Libya, were identified and located. The majority of the identified IDPs originated from Benghazi, Derna, Sirte, Aw-bari, Kikla, Tripoli and Al-Kufrah. The primary locations to which they fled and are now residing are Ajdabiya, Al Bayda, Abu Salim, Tobruk, Bani Waled, Tocra, and Tarhuna, as illustrated in the in



the infograph. Efforts are ongoing throughout the country to identify and document additional IDP communities. The DTM second round will be completed by end of February. Data will be updated on a monthly basis.

Children get a chance to learn and play

For the first time since the outbreak of war in Libya in 2011, thousands of children are getting a chance to be children again. Across the country, UNICEF has worked with local partners to ensure that recreational items and learning materials are delivered to schools and Child Friendly Spaces (CFS) in some of the areas worst hit by the war in Libya. By restoring the ability to play and learn, these children can regain a sense of normalcy.



Distribution of recreational items and learning materials

80 per cent of IDPs tracked by DTM originated from Benghazi, Derna, Sirte, Tripoli and Al- Kufra.

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Over 60,000 children in 28 different cities will benefit from the distribution of recreational items and learning materials. The materials will help over 60,000 children in 28 different cities. The educational and recreational kits that have been delivered contain board games, vocal letter boards, games to teach letters and numbers, balls for boys and girls, painting devices, building blocks and puzzle sets.

The games provide children with the opportunity to enjoy a protected moment of carefree childhood, as well as teach them teamwork skills and assist them to express thoughts and process traumatic memories. In Tripoli and Benghazi alone, 270,000 children require psycho-social support. Widespread violence has prevented 150,000 children from attending school.

In February, UNICEF and partners have distributed 780 cartons of School-in-a-Box reaching approximately 60,000 children. The distribution is part of the education sector's efforts to ensure that Libya's children do not completely miss out on their education. The School-in-a-Box contains basic school supplies, such as exercise books, pencils, erasers and scissors, the kit also includes a wooden teaching clock, wooden cubes for counting, a wind-op/solar radio and a set of three laminated posters (alphabet, multiplication and number tables). Regular supply of scholastic materials has been severely curtailed by the war and parents can no longer find or afford stationery for their children. In Benghazi, UNICEF is also supporting catch up classes for 1,900 children whose education has been constantly interrupted by conflict and violence.