

HIGHLIGHTS

- Health response steps up support to clinics in the south, with WHO and IMC in the lead.
- WFP's food distribution reaches 81,000 people in April, with more than 174,000 set to receive food parcels in May.
- Overall displacement figures for Libya are revised following the release of IOM's Round 3 of the Displacement Tracking Matrix (DTM), with an increase likely due to conditions in Sirte.

FIGURES

# of IDPs	417,000
# of refugees	100,000
# migrants	135,000
Affected pop [^]	2.44 m

[^]IDP, refugee and migrants figures based on DTM-3

FUNDING

165.6 million
requested (US\$)

23.4% funded



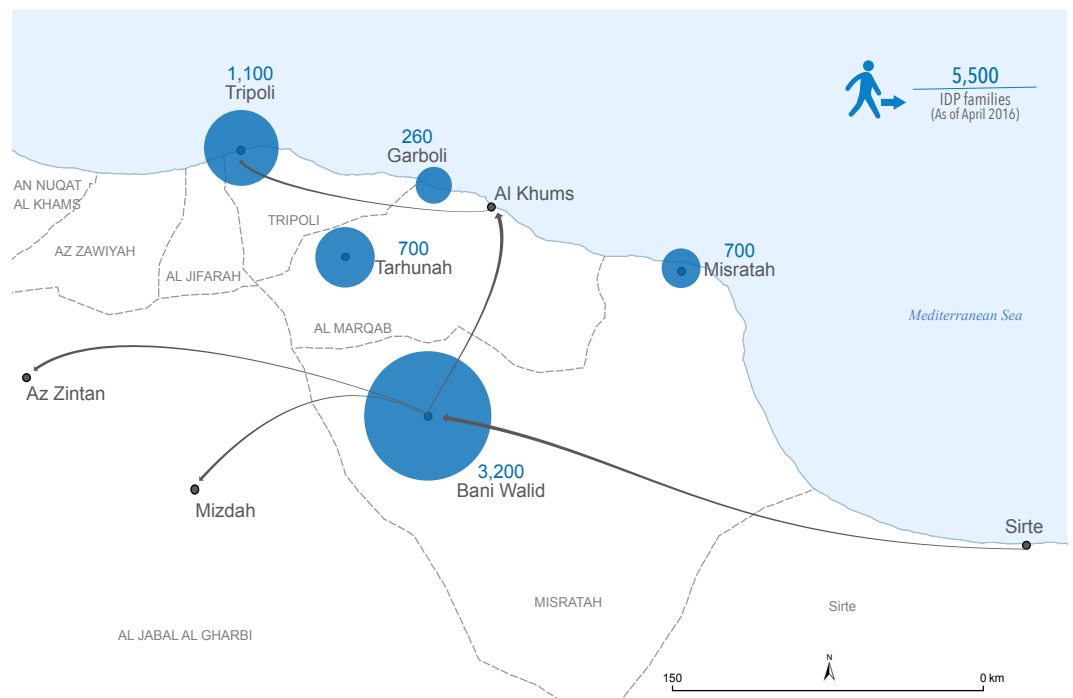
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Thousands of families flee Sirte

Ongoing clashes, military operations and day-to-day hardships in the Islamic State-controlled Sirte area have forced thousands of people to flee in recent months. The capacity of local responders is stretched to breaking point as fearful families seek safety from conflict and repression, sheltering in schools, universities, public buildings and in the streets. In March-April, IOM recorded the displacement of 1,225 families over just 15 days from Sirte, Harawa and surrounding neighbourhoods. The total number has reached 5,500, with more expected. The town of Beni Walid is accommodating the bulk of the influx of internally displaced persons (IDPs), with up to 20,000 in total.

The Libya Inter-Sector Coordination Group is prioritizing the response to Sirte IDPs. UNHCR, UNICEF, WFP, IOM, WHO, in partnership with local actors, are conducting rapid assessments of their locations, numbers, and needs. OCHA is coordinating with local councils to advise on information collection, needs assessment, and activities of UN and partner organizations. Delivery of assistance has commenced to the most vulnerable groups in the most affected areas. UN agencies are working with local partners to deliver food, health, hygiene and non-food items, as well as education and recreational services.



Data source: Libyan Red Crescent preliminary report 2016

Displacement Update

IOM's Displacement Tracking Matrix (DTM) Round 3 has now established full coverage of all accessible areas of Libya, capturing the comprehensive baseline of the country's IDP population, totalling 417,123 people. Benghazi hosts the largest share of identified IDPs, with 115,000 displaced persons, accounting for 27.6% of all IDPs in Libya.

Pressure on host communities

Zintan is one of many Libyan cities that has welcomed displaced persons, hosting some 3,800 families. Its water networks and infrastructure have struggled to cope with the influx, and service disruptions and water shortages are a daily challenge. Zintan's people depend largely on water trucking.

Water & Sanitation for IDPs in Zintan



Photo credit: UNICEF/Libyan Society for Charity Works
Hygiene kits are delivered in Zintan

In April 2016, the Libyan Society for Charitable works in partnership with UNICEF delivered hygiene kits and hygiene messages to 1,500 vulnerable displaced families in Zintan, with funding from the European Commission - Humanitarian Aid and Civil Protection (ECHO).

There are an estimated 682,000 people in Libya who lack adequate access to safe drinking water, hygiene and sanitation, creating serious health risks from exposure to water borne illnesses, nutritional problems and hygiene and sanitation related diseases.

Displaced families living with host communities and in collective shelters are particularly exposed to the consequences of poor water and sanitation conditions. With the hotter weather placing further strain on water supplies, health experts are warning that addressing water, health and sanitation (WASH) needs in the next few months will be crucial to prevent disease.

One family's story

Ismail Abdul Nadir and his wife and two children were among the many families who received hygiene kits together with the hygiene messages.

"I am very happy to receive the soap, shampoo, sanitary products and other items in the kit. They will contribute to the healthy living of my family and children. It will also save our money for other food and basic items," said Ismail.

Eighteen months ago, Ismail and his family were forced to flee fighting in their home town of Wershafana and sought refuge in Zintan. Although the fighting has stopped, they cannot return. "My home is lost and only debris remains," explained Ismail.

"We live on help and charity to barely survive. My daughter lost one year of her academic school year because of security and loss of family documents. Our children suffer from fear and psychological problems".

The family lives in substandard shelter which lacks basic sanitation. They suffer from water scarcity and poor hygienic conditions.

Food assistance to IDPs and vulnerable groups

The World Food Programme (WFP) is focused on Libya's most vulnerable, and in particular on IDPs. In April, thanks to a donation of €1 million from Italy, WFP delivered 976 mt of food parcels to 81,000 people in western areas. In May, WFP will distribute food commodities to 93,483 beneficiaries in the east and 80,833 beneficiaries in the west and south. WFP is also delivering training for its partners on food targeting, distribution, reporting, logistics, and financial reporting.

A health system on the brink

In the south of Libya, the health system is particularly weak and overburdened. The region has a high number of IDPs and copes with a regular influx of migrants from neighbouring countries. The security situation is volatile.

Mobile clinics widen access to health services for vulnerable IDPs and migrants

International Medical Corps (IMC) is delivering health assistance via mobile clinics to vulnerable IDPs and migrants in the south, as part of efforts to strengthen the weakened health system.

Assessments conducted by IMC identified the Sabha Polyclinic and Murzuq Central Hospital as high priority centres requiring urgent support. With funding from OFDA and ECHO, IMC has included these two health centres in its country-wide health programme, aimed at improving the access of displaced persons and migrants to health services.

The programme enables the provision of primary health care services by mobile medical teams in locations where IDPs are living, alongside sensitization campaigns for health-seeking behaviours, and provision of medicines, medical supplies and training to health personnel.

Health facilities in the south have sustained extensive damage from fighting. They lack adequate personnel to meet the needs of the catchment population, and their stocks of medical supplies and equipment are dangerously low.

Stepping up support to south's only neonatal ICU after tragic deaths of 12 infants

In a period of just one month, 12 newborns lost their lives in the Sabha Medical Centre, pointing to a major breakdown of the health system.

The deaths occurred as a result of a bacterial infection and lack of specialized health staff to provide medical care.

Families living around Sabha rely on the centre to provide the south's only neonatal intensive care unit (ICU) for critical infant and maternal health services.

WHO has moved immediately to support the ICU, and is working with partners, including the IMC, to strengthen its capacity to prevent further loss of life. It has deployed consultants to review the situation and work with hospital management to improve the quality of care.

National polio vaccination campaign reaches more than 1 million children

On 23 April, the first national polio vaccination campaign for two years was completed in Libya. The five-day campaign reached more than one million children under the direct supervision of the National Centre for Disease Control (NCDC) and with the support of UNICEF and the World Health Organization (WHO). Ahead of the campaign, UNICEF provided 1.5 million doses of polio vaccines to the country, through a special flight to the Mitiga Airport in Tripoli. The shipment contained enough vaccines to cover nearly 1.2 million children below the age of six. WHO catered for all the operational cost of the campaign as well as the technical assistance.



Photo credit: WHO
A young Libyan girl receives the polio vaccine as part of the NCDC's campaign

Protection response requires regional action

UNHCR continues to call for increased regular pathways for the admission of refugees and asylum-seekers to Europe, including resettlement and humanitarian admission programmes, family reunification, private sponsorship and student and work visas for refugees.



Abdulrahman, aged three, sits on the lap of his father, Yasin, 24, a Somali who had been living in a refugee camp in Yemen. Yasin searched desperately for his five relatives among the flailing people in the water. "We thought we would die, too," he said. "We thought, 'We are next'." He lost four of his relatives that day.



Muaz, a 25-year-old university student from Ethiopia, cries in his room while remembering his wife and child who died during the sinking of an overcrowded boat in the Mediterranean.

Photo credits: UNHCR/ Achilleas Zavallis

Survival stories after yet another tragedy at sea

The UN Refugee Agency (UNHCR) continues to provide critical support to refugees and migrants in Libya as it tracks an alarming increase in sea departures to Europe. Many attempting the perilous crossing by boat have lost their lives so far in 2016, with UNHCR recording 3,561 people rescued by Libyan Coast Guards between 1 January and 28 April.

In April, as many as 500 people are believed to have died in one incident when a boat carrying refugees and migrants from Somalia, Ethiopia, Sudan and Egypt sank from the weight of the people on board.

The 41 survivors, among them a 3-year-old child, were rescued by a merchant ship and taken to Kalamata, Greece on 16 April. They were part of a group of between 100 to 200 people who departed from Tobruk on a 30-metre boat, and were later transferred to a larger ship carrying hundreds of people in terribly overcrowded conditions. It was during the transfer of passengers that the larger boat capsized and sank. The survivors drifted at sea for three days before being rescued.

UNHCR provides those rescued with assistance through its two health posts in Zawya and Tripoli. The assistance includes primary medical care at points of disembarkation and non-food items (NFIs).

Local responders support HRP in Tripoli

On 28-29 April in Tripoli, the For You Libya Group (FYLG) hosted an information forum on the Libya Humanitarian Response Plan (HRP), convening members of the Presidency Council, House of Representative, State Council, Mayors, senior government officials, private sector leaders, national staff of INGO, and civil society leaders and activists, with more than 300 in attendance over the two days.

The theme of the event was "Let's Be Partners" in the implementation of the HRP, launched in December 2015 and requesting US\$165.6 million to respond to humanitarian needs in Libya. Hearing for the first time the statistics on the large number of Libyans in dire need of assistance, and noting the inability of authorities to provide help, many of the participants expressed shock. They proposed a list of recommendations for immediate action, noting the critical importance of removing barriers to access for humanitarian response where it is most needed.

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OCHA humanitarian bulletins are available at | www.reliefweb.int