CERF funding averts rupture of food and medicine pipelines: 12 new projects approved

An injection of US$12 million from the Central Emergency Response Fund (CERF) has provided much-needed financing for the approval of 12 priority projects from the Libya Humanitarian Response Plan (HRP). The projects target IDPs, refugees, migrants, asylum-seekers and vulnerable conflict-affected communities across Libya. The funding comes at a crucial time, restoring pipelines to ensure that food assistance and supplies of essential medicines reach those most urgently in need.

Overall funding towards the HRP has now reached $19.7 million, falling well short of the $165.6 million required. Humanitarian Coordinator Mr. Ali Al-Za'tari stressed that this will not be enough to respond to the urgent needs of people in Libya, with pipelines set to break again by June without further funding.

Protection concerns mount as sea departures spike

To the west of Tripoli, the IOM has tracked a notable increase in sea departures to Europe. Since the beginning of 2016, IOM estimates that over 18,370 migrants, mainly African nationals, have departed from Libya towards Italy. Six shipwrecks were recorded between 21 and 30 March, carrying 1,105 people. Although hundreds were rescued, at least 174 people are still missing. IOM provided rescued migrants with assistance, including blankets, mattresses and pillows. As part of its efforts to alleviate the plight of stranded migrants, IOM facilitated the voluntary return to Nigeria of 172 people via its Humanitarian Repatriation and Reintegration Programme out of Libya.
Explosive remnants of war threaten displaced in Benghazi: Partners scale up ERW risk awareness

United Nations Mine Action Service (UNMAS) partner DanChurchAid (DCA) has launched an awareness campaign after an increase in movements of IDPs heightened safety concerns in the highly contaminated Benghazi area where Explosive Remnants of War (ERW) pose a serious risk to the population.

In 2015, the international NGO Save the Children reported Libyan Red Crescent data that tracked as many as 300 incidents in Benghazi involving ERWs over a three-month period. Recently, fighting has moved on from certain areas of Benghazi that were previously inaccessible and the DCA campaign targets the thousands of IDPs trying to return to their homes, at risk of falling victim to ERW and booby traps.

Funded by UNMAS and administered by UNOPS, the DCA campaign has reached more than 5,500 IDPs and children through direct awareness sessions for “at-risk” communities in Benghazi and its wider environment, and more than 14,500 people through media campaigns including billboards, radio spots, posters, leaflets and t-shirts. The campaign included safety messages delivered via a range of channels, including Risk Awareness games for children. DCA has worked through national staff in Benghazi, and with local civil society partners the Benghazi Boy Scouts and Girl Guides, and the National Safety Authority (NSA). Partners have been trained to deliver Risk Education sessions specifically to IDPs and children targeting the areas most affected by the contamination of ERW.

In conflict-affected countries like Libya, the high level of contamination from ERW in suburban residential areas is currently the biggest threat to life and humanitarian access. These explosive objects deny citizens access to homes and livelihoods and cause death and injuries. They block delivery of humanitarian relief and aid to affected populations in dire need of assistance.

On 4 April 2016, Libya commemorated the 11th anniversary of the International Day for Mine Awareness and Assistance in Mine Action under the theme: “Mine Action is Humanitarian Action”.

“These invisible killers lie silently in the ground, and continue to murder and maim people. All children in Libya should be able to play, laugh and learn and look for a better future without fear or dange. We pledge to work, through the UN Mine Action Service (UNMAS) and its courageous Libyan partners, towards a Libya free of mines and explosive remnants.”

Special Representative of the Secretary-General for Libya, Martin Kobler on Mine Action Day 2016

FUNDING: PROTECTION SECTOR

27.6 million requested (US$)

11% funded

UNMAS: WORKING FOR MINE ACTION FOR LIBYA

“It has been our privilege to work closely with the Libyan Mine Action Centre (LibMAC) and other implementing partners over the last few years to assist Libya to address the deadly impact of mines and explosive remnants of war. We continue to work remotely from Tunisia as we strive to assist the Libyan people in the priority tasks of surveying and clearance of these items, education about the risks associated with ERW and of small arms light weapons (SALW) and in the support of injured victims and their families. We look forward to returning to Libya soon to be able to work face to face with our partners and other stakeholders in moving Libya towards a safer future without explosive hazards.”

Lance Malin, Chief of UNMAS Libya on Mine Action Day 2016

Photos: DanChurchAid
DTM highlights scale of displacement crisis: 332,000 IDPs recorded to date

The second round of IOM's Displacement Tracking Matrix (DTM) recorded 331,622 IDPs, as well as 150,637 returnees and 142,370 migrants.

In this round, the DTM expanded its geographic coverage and enhanced quality of data through field visits and assessments in locations hosting IDPs and migrants. The DTM also increased the number of areas assessed by 8 per cent, covering 99 areas out of 104, equivalent to 95 per cent of areas in Libya. IDPs were identified across 95 areas, returnees were identified in 19 areas and migrants across 55 areas. The actual number of IDPs in Libya is believed to be much higher due to the limited confirmed information from Benghazi, a gap that the next DTM will aim to address to capture the full picture of the crisis.

Reports from the field during this round highlighted the deteriorating economic situation as an additional stress factor, and in many cases a contributing factor for displacement. The lack of financial fluidity across the country is leaving many vulnerable and/or looking towards alternative income-generating avenues. Field reports indicate that, under the current circumstances, smuggling and trafficking activities are likely to increase, as well as abductions in exchange for ransoms.

Strengthening humanitarian action through partnership: Engaging local responders

On 30 March, the Libya Humanitarian Country Team (HCT), led by Humanitarian Coordinator, Mr. Ali Al-Za' tari, gathered 78 participants from Libyan and international NGOs, relevant Government partners, international partners and UN agencies to share experiences on common challenges and assistance delivery mechanisms.

This was the second meeting in a series that the HCT is convening with Libyan counterparts, aiming to discuss the most pressing humanitarian issues in Libya and to strengthen partnerships for an effective response.

Participants named lack of resources, specific access constraints and insecurity due to ongoing conflicts as critical barriers to effective response.

Looking ahead, participants committed to work towards improved assessment tools and effective information management to ensure better knowledge sharing and informed humanitarian operations.

The HCT is examining options to provide capacity-building to NGO partners, either directly or through international partners, underscoring the strong commitment of all participants to unified humanitarian action in support of the Humanitarian Response Plan.
FUNDING: HEALTH SECTOR

50.4 million requested (US$)
9% funded

Saving lives in Libya: Working for a sustainable health system

With Libya’s health system on the verge of collapse, the Italian NGO EMERGENCY is bringing life-saving care closer to communities affected by the conflict in Libya.

In October 2015, EMERGENCY opened a Surgical Centre in Gernada, Al Bayda Province. The Centre offers free-of-charge, high-quality surgical and trauma treatment for war victims; it has already treated over 700 patients and performed more than 100 surgical operations. Located approximately 70km from Derna and 150km from Benghazi, the Surgical Centre aims to become a reference centre not only for those living nearby, but also for patients coming from other areas of the country, including Southern regions.

In addition to the provision of surgical and medical care, the Centre contributes to building the capacity and sustainability of the national health system by offering professional training on treatment, patient stabilization, and trauma management. Seventy Libyan staff are being trained by a team of 10 international healthcare professionals to deliver high-level medical care, including efficient management of the hospital and medical supplies.

From patient to local responder: Ramadan’s story

EMERGENCY’s training program has also found a committed participant among one of the Surgical Centre’s patients. Ramadan Mousa Kaber Kony, once discharged, was asked to become a member of EMERGENCY’s team thanks to his proactive and caring behaviour towards other patients, and his ability to speak both Arabic and English.

“During the fighting in my village, I was wounded by a bullet that entered via my left shoulder and passed close to my heart before emerging from my back. There are no good medical services in my area, so during a moment of cease-fire, along with other injured people, managed to reach the EMERGENCY’s hospital in Gernada. There we all got the right treatment and we stayed in hospital until we were well enough to be discharged.

When I was ready to leave the hospital, I was asked whether I’d be interested in working with them at the hospital. I said ‘yes’ because I feel I belong to this place, where I was once a patient and now I’m a member of staff. I’m happy for myself, although I’m very sorry for my family and all the people in my village who have to go on living in a hard, dangerous situation. I’d like to thank all the EMERGENCY staff: I hope I can be of good use in this hospital.”

Libya on Humanitarian Response.info

Find all the latest information on the humanitarian response in Libya at: www.humanitarianresponse.info/en/operations/lybia