

HIGHLIGHTS

- The situation in Sirte remains unstable, with reports of increased military operations and shelling of the city threatening to displace more vulnerable families.
- A tragic month for refugees and migrants seeking to reach Europe, with 1,806 dead or missing off the coast of Libya in May.
- WFP and WHO continue to provide life-saving food and medical assistance.

FIGURES

# of IDPs	417,000*
# of migrants	150,000
# of refugees	100,000
Affected pop.	2.44 M

*DTM figures, 11 May

FUNDING

165.6 million
requested (US\$)

42.3 million
(26% funded)



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Displacement crisis: Military operations in Sirte

The fight against the Islamic State (IS) in and around Sirte has gained traction over the past weeks. Reports of shelling, suicide attacks and activity by armed groups have compounded fears for civilian safety, with reports of casualties emerging. The UN and partners are monitoring the situation closely, with the conflict likely to lead to further displacement. More than two thirds of Sirte's 80,000 residents have already fled oppressive IS control. As of 11 May 2016, IOM recorded the displacement of up to 5,560 households to Al Khums, Bani Walid, Tarhouna, Tripoli, and other nearby cities. This number has increased to around 7,000 families by the end of the month. Gauging the needs of those displaced is a priority for the Libya Inter-Sector Coordination Group as it works to deliver assistance to the most vulnerable. UNICEF, UNHCR, IOM and WFP have provided food and non-food assistance to newly displaced in Bani Walid and Tarhouna.

Assessing protection needs of Sirte IDPs

Following the recent spike in displacement from Sirte, international NGOs ACTED/REACH and Impact deployed a joint assessment of IDP protection needs on behalf of UNHCR. The assessment aimed to identify the needs and priorities of IDPs in key locations by interviewing People with Knowledge (PwK) about the evolving situation. Conducted by trained data collectors operating through networks of Local Crisis Committees and civil society organizations on the ground in Tripoli, Misrata and Al Khoms, the REACH team assessed locations based on IOM's DTM population data. The results showed that risk of injury or death by small arms presents a severe protection concern for IDPs, cited by almost half of all PwKs. Many PwKs cited an inability to afford rent amid fears of eviction, as well as concerns about the deterioration of sewerage systems and poor WASH conditions. The top priority shelter-related non-food items include mattresses, blankets, kitchen items and warm clothes.



Photo: Al-Salam Charity Foundation

Misrata authorities outline IDP needs

On 6 June, OCHA coordinated a one-day mission to Misrata in collaboration with UNICEF, IOM, WHO and UNHCR to conduct an assessment of the needs of the city's displaced population, meeting with the Misrata Municipal Council, Crisis Committee and Central Hospital manager. Displacement to Misrata dates back to July 2014 from 32 different locations within Libya, most notably from Benghazi and Sirte. Misrata hosts approximately 7,037 displaced households, representing 30,690 individuals. Health needs are among the most pressing, with Misrata Central Hospital operating below its 800-bed capacity with just 400 beds available and a lack of specialized medical teams,

medical supplies. Misrata hospital receives casualties from the conflict in Sirte and is in need of specialised assistance. WHO provided 25 emergency health kits, each sufficient for 10,000 persons for three months. Acute shortage of anaesthetics and narcotics drugs is reported. To respond to the immediate needs identified during the assessment; food, non-food items and hygiene kits will be dispatched urgently for the newly-displaced arriving from Sirte. A follow-up mission will be conducted to assess food and cash needs within the next month.

Perilous sea crossing claims more lives as migrants and refugees face dire conditions in Libya

“I spent more than one month in an extremely difficult journey that cost me Euro 2,450 from Senegal to Libya via Mali and Algeria. During my stay in Tripoli I worked in several jobs to support myself and earn some money that would allow me to cross the Mediterranean. However, I was arrested by the police, lost my savings and was imprisoned for two months until IOM’s help arrived.”

Soumaila, a young migrant, speaking to IOM

May has proven to be the deadliest month this year for refugees and migrants attempting the dangerous sea journey from Libya to Europe, with 1,086 people reported dead or missing in maritime incidents off Libya’s coast. Between 22 and 28 May alone, over 3,600 migrants were rescued and brought back to shore in Libya.

With the warmer weather in the past two months blamed in part for the increase, the continuing dire conditions in Libya’s detention centres are increasingly in the spotlight. The migrants rescued in May were transferred to detention centres in Al Zawiya, Abu Eissa and Shuhada’ Al Nasr, which are all severely over capacity. One centre has a capacity to hold 1,000 migrants, yet is currently holding 2,000 people. The ability of the detention centres to provide initial emergency assistance and meet critical needs is severely strained.

The capacity of humanitarian responders is also reaching limits. The Libyan Red Crescent (LRC) is unable to meet the demand to respond to casualties at sea, especially for the management of remains, including transportation, storage, and burial. The LRC Al Zawiya branch recently announced the suspension of all its services related to migrants.

In response, the humanitarian community is supporting migrants and vital local response services. UNHCR conducted hygiene promotion activities in Alkhoms, Gweaa, and Alkareem detention centres benefiting over 300 detainees. IOM has delivered 600 hygiene kits in the week of 24 May 2016 in coordination with Shiekh Taher Alzawy Charity Organisation (STACO) and Psychosocial Support (PSS) to both Abu Eissa and Al-Shuhada Detention Centres. To support the capacity of the LRC to handle the remains of those who have perished at sea with dignity and respect, IOM has delivered 1,200 body bags to LRC offices across Libya.



UN VISITS TRIPOLI DETENTION CENTRE

On 20 May, a UN delegation visited the Abu-Saleem Detention Centre in Tripoli, which currently hosts 450 migrants.

The delegation was led by Mr. Martin Kobler, the Special Representative of the Secretary-General and Head of the United Nations Support Mission in Libya (UNSMIL) and included UNHCR Libya Chief of Mission Mr. Samer Haddadin, and IOM chief of mission for Libya Mr. Osman Belbasi. The discussion focused on the need to secure further support from the international community.

UNHCR and IOM are leading a task force on detention, to monitor and provide basic assistance, such as health or basic hygiene items. UNHCR advocates for the release of refugees who have fled their country, while IOM facilitates the voluntary return of migrants willing to go home.



Photo: IOM

In Brief: Humanitarian assistance highlights

Health

The World Health Organization (WHO), together with partners, continues to ensure that medicines and medical supplies reach those in need. On 2 June, WHO arranged a consignment of tuberculosis medicines to Tripoli, handing the stocks over to the National Tuberculosis Programme where they will serve the entire caseload of TB patients for a period of six months.

WHO also arranged a consignment of 500 Interagency Emergency Health Kits (IEHK), handing them over to the Ministry of Health warehouse in Al Baida to be distributed across Libya. Another 25 IEHK were delivered to Misrata hospital in early June.



Site survey of Abu Sleem Hospital, with the participation of Director and Engineers of Technical Department / Photo: UNDP

Food Security

In May, the World Food Programme (WFP) distributed 876 mt of food in western and southern Libya through cooperating partner Sheikh Taher Azzawi Charity Organisation (STACO), reaching 69,820 beneficiaries, and 402 mt in eastern Libya through LibAid, reaching 33,000 beneficiaries in Benghazi.

In June, WFP is distributing food to 33,500 people in Benghazi and to 73,000 people in western and southern Libya. WFP's focus on areas where fighting continues to occur has provided much-needed food assistance to internally displaced people.

Saving lives in Libya: Solar energy to provide emergency power to hospitals

With Libya already facing significant challenges to its health sector, frequent electricity shortages are hampering the operation of vital equipment and placing patients' lives at risk. As part of the Early Recovery component of the Humanitarian Response Plan (HRP), the United Nations Development Programme (UNDP) "Energy for Life Saving" intervention is providing an innovative solution with the installation of solar power backup systems in the hospitals of most major Libyan cities.

UNDP has kicked off the project with a site survey in Tripoli and Sebha, covering the Ali Omar Askar Neuro Surgery, Abu Sleem Accidents & Emergency Hospital, Tripoli Medical Centre, Tripoli Central and Sebha Central Hospital. Further surveys are scheduled in Benghazi in June. The solar panels will enable hospitals to continuously operate equipment such as dialysis machines, surgical support tools and refrigerators for storing medicines.



Libya Solar Co. partner with Energy GSOL briefing UNDP staff in Tripoli on the Solar Energy System / Photo: UNDP

Funding for the project comes from the Central Emergency Response Fund (CERF), with sustainability a critical component of the project design. "I am enthusiastic about UNDP's support to provide hospitals with solar energy systems, and I would ask for more technical support and training for the sustainability of the system," said Dr. Al-Hamali, the head and Director of Technical Department of Tripoli Central Hospital.

UN convenes at regional level for strategic discussion on Libya humanitarian response

Regional Directors of nine UN agencies, funds and programmes convened in Tunis on 17 and 18 May to identify a strategic direction for the humanitarian response in Libya. Chaired by Humanitarian Coordinator, Mr. Ali Al-Za'tari, participants from OCHA, UNHCR, WFP, UNICEF, IOM, UNFPA, FAO, UNDP (RBAS) and WHO received a comprehensive overview of political, security and humanitarian developments, agreeing to move forward with the preparation of a Libya Humanitarian Response Plan (HRP) for 2017.



Together, they agreed to reinforce the message that there are significant humanitarian needs in Libya and to stimulate resource mobilization in support of the response. There were calls for improving data collection and strengthening the evidence base in the forthcoming HRP. There were also discussions around the need to engage beyond Tripoli and to establish presences in the eastern and southern parts of the country. Further interaction with national actors, including municipalities was stressed, as was the importance of supporting capacity building for Libyan NGOs.

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