

## UNICEF Situation Report # 27 - Libya Crisis

Date: 13 October 2011

Reporting period (29 September – 13 October)

### Highlights:

- The past weeks have been dominated by intense fighting in the cities of Sirte, Bani Walid as well as Sabha where NTC forces have been pushing forward. On the evening of the 12 October, there were rumours of NTC forces having captured Gaddafi son Moatassim. This was later denied by the NTC Chairman.
- The situation for civilians in conflict-affected areas, particularly families with children, is of great concern. Many families have fled the intense combat, but others have remained behind and have been exposed to street fighting in and around their homes.
- UNICEF has continued to deliver safe, bottled drinking water to IDPs across Libya, including around 70,000 persons in the Tinyinay, Nismah, Mizdah areas relating to Bani Walid displacements, Hishah, Abu Grein, Hawara, Bwayra al Husan areas relating to Sirte displacements, and Tarhouna and various locations in and around Tripoli. Around 1.4 million litres of bottled water remains in Tripoli and Misrata for returnees to Sirte, Bani Walid and others in need. Other water interventions (trucking, bladders, support to local networks) are also ongoing with a range of partners, based on context and need.
- UNICEF has also delivered a large number of relief items to IDP families, including hygiene kits and water kits.
- UNICEF is in urgent need for more funding if the Libya team is to maintain its programme activities related to education, child protection, water, and child health. Libyan unfrozen assets are not expected to be available to humanitarian agencies in the short term.



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On 25 September, a boy wears a mask at Murush Al Kodor Secondary School in Tripoli, the capital. He is attending a volunteer activity at the school in celebration of Wounded Hero Day; activities include poetry readings, bake sales, flower sales and speeches, with proceeds going to the families of war casualties. The school opened the previous day, but many students have not returned; they are still displaced by the conflict.

## Situation Overview

The past weeks have been dominated by intense fighting in the cities of Sirte, Bani Walid as well as Sabha where NTC forces have been pushing forward. In the evening of the 12 October, there were rumours of NTC forces having captured Gaddafi son Moatassim. This was later denied by the NTC Chairman. Extensive celebratory shooting was seen and heard across Tripoli and Benghazi in the evening of 12 October.

UNHCR and the humanitarian community estimate that there are currently around 100,000 – 150,000 IDPs in Libya, primarily in the zones around Bani Walid, Sirte, Misrata and Tarhouna, as well as in sites in and around Tripoli and Benghazi. An ECHO mission to the Sirte area has identified Tawarga IDPs as being urgently in need of humanitarian assistance.

The situation for civilians in the conflict-affected cities, particularly families with children, is of great concern. Many families have fled the intense fighting, but others remained behind and have been exposed to urban fighting in and around their homes.

Access to and availability of safe water continued to be a critical need for conflict-affected IDP populations that have been forced to settle in sites that either do not have access to the general water network, or where the network is unable to meet demand or quality standards. Many IDP families are staying in deserted areas far from human settlements, and with reported increases in diarrhoea, the utility of household and personal hygiene items has emerged as an important need.

An ECHO mission to Sirte on 11 October has identified great humanitarian needs in water, sanitation, health, and protection. The situation in hospitals is particularly critical.

Human Rights organisations have expressed increasing concern about the situation for detainees kept in Libyan prisons.

Following the re-opening of primary and middle-schools across Libya in the past month, high schools (grade 10-12) also re-opened on 1 October. In a MoE / UNICEF press conference in Tripoli on 8 October, the MoE reported that the estimated attendance rate in eastern parts of Libya is around 85 per cent. The impact of the war is still visible in many schools, with bullet holes and other similar damages visible in class rooms. There is an immediate need for assessing the extents of the damages and initiating repairs.

## Coordination, Cluster Leadership and Key Partnerships

UNICEFs Child Protection Specialist participated in an inter-agency mission to the Western Nafusa Mountains on 11-13 October. During the mission, three under-age juveniles were identified in a detention centre. A follow-up protection mission is planned to take place soon.

The UNICEF Child Protection Specialist in Benghazi participated in an inter-agency mission to the eastern city of Hawara and surrounding areas, assessing protection and education needs. The area is highly militarized, and women and children are rarely seen in public. Most schools west of Ras Lanuf towards Hawara appear to be closed due to insecurity and lack of teachers.

Humanitarian agencies, including international and national NGOs, continue to deliver critically needed humanitarian assistance to displaced populations in the areas affected by the current fighting, but also those displaced in the Tripoli area and elsewhere. Blankets, hygiene kits, as well as water and food items are most in need.

Education technical working group meetings were held on the 1, 3, 8 and 11 October in Tripoli: The MoE, with support from UNICEF, is promoting civil society participation especially related to national NGOs and community-based organizations and initiatives;

weekly TWG meetings are also being held in Benghazi in order to ensure coordination amongst INGOs and NGOs in the eastern part of the country.

## **UNICEF Response**

As the Libyan transitional authorities struggle to gain control of the country as a whole, the consolidation of an interim cabinet is on hold pending the “liberation” of Sirte. This has resulted in an increasingly challenging environment for programme planning with counterparts. UNICEF has, however, continued advocacy and cooperation with key line ministries, and continued planning for long-term education and water plans ready for implementation once the situation stabilizes.

## **WASH**

Bottled water continues to be distributed to numerous IDP locations in the zones mentioned below. In addition, water has been distributed to IDPs transiting to urban centres seeking accommodation with host families. Around 200,000 litres of bottled water remain in the port in Tripoli, earmarked largely for Bani Waleed. UNICEF still has 1,2 million litres of bottled water pre-positioned in Misrata, of which 600,000 litres is reserved for Sirte returnees.

Locations to which water has been distributed to, for IDPs both settled and in transit include:

- Tinyinay, Nismah, Mizdah and other locations relating to Bani Walid displacements (around 40,000 individuals)
- Hishah, Abu Grein, Hawara, Bwayra al Husan and other locations relating to Sirte displacements (around 25,000 individuals)
- Tarhouna and various locations in and around Tripoli (around 5,000 individuals)

UNICEF conducted a WASH assessment for IDPs west of Sirte and in Benghazi and provided water assistance for IDPs in Benghazi.

UNICEF has provided technical assistance to LibAid and coordinated assistance for the repair and reestablishment of the water system in three camps for Tawarga people in Benghazi, including providing water tanks and supplies to repair the bathroom facilities in one camp, and supporting the Water Authority to deliver water to a second camp.

UNICEF has pre-positioned the following items in Misrata:

- 50 drums of Calcium Hypochlorite
- 8 water bladders
- 2,500 family water kits
- 40 rolls of tarpaulin

During the recent inter-agency missions to Sirte, Hawara, and Benghazi, UNICEF has delivered the following items to cover the most critical needs of IDP families:

- 3,500 hygiene kits, covering the needs of around 7,000 persons
- family water kits for 3000 families
- 28 rolls of tarpaulin, plastic mats for approximately 500 families
- blankets for approximately 1500 persons
- 9 tents for communal shelter

4,700 hygiene kits will soon be delivered to Misrata from Egypt to support the Libya response.

## Child Protection

UNICEF is supporting Save the Children who is currently operating 13 Child Friendly Spaces in Benghazi, 9 in schools and 4 in IDP sites or host communities. Identification and training for another 10 child friendly spaces (CFS) in Ajdabiya has been completed, and these sites will open in the coming week. An additional CFS was opened in the newly established site for IDPs from Tawarga, with UNICEF supplies including a tent, ECD and school in a box supplies.



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On 25 September, Aya smiles at Murush Al Kodor Secondary School in Tripoli, the capital. A butterfly is painted on her face; it is coloured like the flag of the Amazigh tribe, an ethnic group. She is attending a volunteer activity at the school in celebration of Wounded Hero Day; activities include poetry readings, bake sales, flower sales and speeches, with proceeds going to the families of war casualties. The school opened the previous day, but many students have not returned; they are still displaced by the conflict.

UNICEF and Save the Children will deploy mobile child protection teams to conduct child protection activities in communities west of Ajdabiya as communities and children return to these areas.

UNICEF has supported Handicap International (HI) to conduct risk education sessions in communities and schools in Ajdabiya and Benghazi. HI, in cooperation with the mine action NGO MAG, have checked and cleared all 12 damaged schools in Ajdabiya, and are in the process of checking schools in Brega. In addition, UNICEF set up system with the MoE and JMACT to ensure that all schools in conflict affected areas between Ajdabiya and Sirte will be checked and cleared for ERW.

The child rights monitoring project with CESVI was launched at the start of October. This project will involve establishing four teams of child rights monitors in the east, Misrata, western Nafusa Mountains and Tripoli respectively. These teams will work with a network of local authorities, civil society and international actors to monitor, report, and respond to child rights violations in the coming months.

Leaders of 14 youth clubs under the Scouts in the East and Misrata have been trained and are currently training 20 adolescents in child protection and psychosocial support in their areas. Activities will begin in the coming week.

## Education

As part of ongoing awareness campaigns, supported by UNICEF, leaflets – with all relevant information related to resuming schooling, catch-up programmes and activities to equal education opportunities in the country – are currently being distributed to parents nationwide.

Supply and needs for education has been finalized and forwarded by the MOE to the executive committee of the NTC for approval. UNICEF will support procurement and distribution processes (technical advice/support) for nation-wide students-based, teachers-based and school-based supplies. Agreement was also reached to provide furniture for schools constructed from recycled wood with JMACT in Benghazi, the MoE and MoD.

A proposal is being prepared (MoE and UNICEF) for the development of psychosocial support and referral systems for inclusive education (children with special needs, victims of violence, etc.).

The basic assessment on the education situation is being planned for nationwide implementation; a questionnaire revision meeting with the TWG, led by the MoE was held on 8 October; data will be linked to the Education Management Information System and will serve for future planning in the education sector.

UNICEF, in support to the priorities of the NTC, is preparing proposals for supporting curriculum development, considering integrated educational needs for children between 0 to 18 years of age (ECD / ECE included); emphasis on human rights-based approaches and an equity focus is being given.

Advocacy related to the right for education of Tawarga IDP children has been ongoing with the MoE in Benghazi and elsewhere. As a result, the MoE has agreed to integrate these children into nearby schools.

### **Communication**

Communication activities during this period focused on supporting a UNICEF video mission (11-16 October) in producing series of video stories on Education and Child Protection projects in Libya. As part of the video stories, interviews were conducted with the MoE, beneficiaries and key partners.

UNICEF has briefed a team from BBC 1 on an upcoming coverage/mission (18-27 October) to Benghazi and Tripoli on issues facing children and youth.

A UNICEF and MoE press conference in Tripoli took place during this period, highlighting the priorities and efforts needed to ensure that every Libyan child gains access to education.

Updates on UNICEF response in Libya continues to be shared via twitter @RoshanKhadiwi

### **Funding Situation**

UNICEF urgently needs funding to respond to ensure uninterrupted support in education, child protection, water, and child health activities. Libyan unfrozen assets remain unavailable to humanitarian agencies.

**Date of next Situation Report: on or around 21 October 2011**

For more information, please contact:

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