

## UNICEF Situation Report # 29 - Libya Crisis

Date: 04 November 2011

Reporting period: 20 October – 02 November

### Highlights:

- There are currently over 300 Brigades in the capital Tripoli alone, and clashes between brigades from different areas are on the rise, posing a significant security threat that could pose a serious hindrance to a peaceful transition in Libya. It is vital that the NTC leadership takes immediate control of the situation and initiates steps to re-establish a national army and police force into which these fighters could be integrated.
- Although the armed conflict is officially over, threats against the civilian population, especially children, will continue to be of great concern in some areas of the country. The conflict has caused widespread contamination of UXO and ERWs in homes, communities and workplaces. UNICEF is working with mine action actors in preparing a comprehensive mine-risk awareness response.
- UNICEF participated in an inter-agency mission to Sirte and BaniWalid on 25-27 October. The aim of the mission was to get an overview of the situation there, now that the fighting has ended and assess the most pressing humanitarian needs. Evidence of the recent fighting is significant in both locations.
- Water quality control monitoring is a major issue of concern in Libya. In order to address these issues in a coordinated and strategic manner, UNICEF facilitated a strategy meeting in Tripoli this week. All the key actors sat around the table to discuss critical issues as water and wastewater master plans, policies, operation & maintenance, Water Quality control, and alternative water supply sources.
- UNICEF is in need of additional funding if it is to maintain its programme activities related to improving access to education, child protection, and water and sanitation.



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On 26 October local residents clean up the streets in Sirte as fighting in the city has ceased and inhabitants are trying to return to their normal lives. The city has been heavily damaged after two months of fighting between pro- and anti-regime loyalists.

## Situation Overview

On 23 October, the Chairman of the NTC officially declared the conflict in Libya as over during a ceremony in Benghazi. The NTC has stated it will determine a new transitional government within 30 days. The process started with the election of Prof Abdul-Rahim Al-Keib as the new interim Prime Minister on 31 October, replacing Mr Mahmoud Jibril.

There are currently over 300 Brigades in the capital Tripoli alone, and clashes between brigades from different areas are on the rise, posing a significant security threat that could pose a serious hindrance to a peaceful transition in Libya. It is vital that the NTC leadership takes immediate control of the situation and initiates steps to re-establish a national army and police force into which these fighters could be integrated. Many fear a cycle of violent retributions and revenge killings of previous Gaddafi-loyalists. Reconciliation between pro- and anti-Gaddafi segments will also be critical.

NATO has officially ended its military operations in Libya on 31 October, despite an official request from the NTC leadership to continue its presence until the end of the year. The Secretary General, Anders Fogh-Rasmussen said the operation had been a success in the alliance's history.

Although the armed conflict is officially over, threats against the civilian population, especially children, will continue to be of great concern in some areas of the country. The conflict has caused widespread contamination of UXO and ERWs in homes, communities and workplaces. UNICEF knows from experience that children are particularly at risk, because their natural curiosity will lead them to pick up items that adults are more cautious to touch.

The Water, Sanitation and Environmental conditions in Sirte are catastrophic. The water supply is of unreliable quality, and operations at four Sewage pumping stations and Sewage Treatment Plants have come to a stop, which has led to wastewater flooding in many areas within Sirte city. Sirte also lacks fuel for domestic use in addition to maintenance of the sewage facilities running. The situation makes large parts of Sirte uninhabitable.

A steady influx of IDPs continues to arrive in Benghazi from the west, including families arriving from Sirte, Misrata and BaniWalid, currently estimated at around 30,000 spread across the east of Libya. Many of the IDPs live in dire conditions, especially when it comes to sanitation and hygiene, and UNICEF has been responding to cover the most basic needs.

This week the UN Secretary General Ban-Ki moon visited Tripoli for a short visit to Tripoli where he expressed the UN's strong commitment to assist the Libyan people in a transition phase where reconciliation, human rights, women's participation and democracy stand high on the agenda.

## Coordination, Cluster Leadership and Key Partnerships

UNICEF participated in an inter-agency mission to Sirte and BaniWalid on 25-27 October. The aim of the mission was to get an overview of the situation there now that the fighting has ended and assess the most pressing humanitarian needs. Both cities have been largely deserted, but many are anticipated to return in the coming weeks. Evidence of the recent fighting is significant in both locations, although to a far greater extent in Sirte where there is extensive damage to housing, institutions and other infrastructure (further details below).

The Education and Protection partners are creating a matrix of damaged schools east of Sirte, Ajdabya, Misrata and areas surrounding Benghazi.

UNICEF continues to coordinate fortnightly education working group meetings in Tripoli, providing a forum to identify interventions, sector priorities and coordinate activities. The

Child Protection working group held its first meeting in Tripoli this week, and it is anticipated that this will benefit future Child Protection activities in these critical times. With the same objective, working group meetings continue to take place in Benghazi on a weekly basis in education and child protection.

## **UNICEF Response**

UNICEF has continued to respond to residual humanitarian needs in particular for the IDPs from Sirte and BaniWalid in education, child protection and WASH across Libya in the past weeks both on upstream and downstream levels working directly in the IDP sites as well as on policy level.

### **WASH**

Water supply to Tripoli from the GMRA pipeline known as Phase II was cut on 15 October. Water was restored in Tripoli on 23 October.

Water quality control monitoring is a major issue of concern across Libya. No proper testing has been done at the water source and network nationwide for more than 10 years. UNICEF is therefore engaging with the relevant authorities in designing a water training programme in two phases. The aim is to develop the capacities of the staff at GMRA water labs. The second training is a basic training of lab staff from the water & wastewater companies.

In order to address critical water and sanitation issues in a coordinated and strategic manner, UNICEF facilitated a strategy meeting this week. All the key actors sat around the table to discuss organization, roles and responsibilities, water and wastewater master plans, policies, tariffs, cost recovery, utility management, operation & maintenance, Water Quality control, as well as alternative water supply sources.

A contingency plan for the continued provision of bottled water was developed, and water continues to be distributed to IDPs in need (31,500 litre was trucked to Tarhouna for people in great need and 154,700 litres covering the needs of around 51,600 IDPs from Sirte and BaniWalid, and 50,000 litres to the hospital in Sirte) in the past weeks.

A team of engineers and technicians has been formed by the Water & Wastewater Company in Tripoli. The team will be able to assess the water network breakdowns and the sewerage system in Sirte.

WASH setup in the so-called Turkish camp in Benghazi has been improved for the around 3,000 people there including; increased water quantities through more water tanks, improved water quality using chlorine for disinfection, installation of m3 tanks with 30 distribution stand-taps for drinking water, raised hygiene awareness among IDPs. An assessment has been conducted on the water situation in the Garyounes camp in Benghazi.

### **Child Protection**

UNICEF continues to support 14 Child Friendly Spaces (CFS) in Benghazi, reaching around 9,000 children, including in the newly established Garyounis and Tikha IDP camps.

The 10 CFS in schools in Ajdabiya continue to be operational, including one in El Hallis camp hosting the IDPs from Tawarga.

UNICEF, ICRC, MAG and HI have identified schools that are damaged in the conflict and/or have been occupied by military forces. All 5 schools in RafLanuf will be checked/cleared. 18 out of 20 schools are reported damaged or occupied in Ajdabiya, and 7 out of 11 schools in Brega. Work to check and clear all schools from Ajdabiya to Sirte is ongoing. Plans to implement similar work in the western parts of Libya is underway.

UNICEF and partners will have to respond rapidly to the extreme contamination of UXO and ERWs, and make every effort possible on the Mine Risk Education component to help children understand the dangers of unexploded ordnances as well as offer and prepare safe spaces for the children to play in. A joint proposal with mine action actors is currently under preparation, but its implementation will depend on adequate funding from donors.

## Education

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



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On 26 October, the inter-agency mission, including UNICEF, visited the city of Sirte. The picture above illustrates the level of destruction to civilian infrastructures in the city, and the massive challenges ahead. The city is heavily contaminated by UXO and ERWs, and must immediately be cleared to enable families to return safely.

School cleaning and rehabilitation for 30 schools in the Eastern part of the country on-going (ACTED/UNICEF).

Due to the influx of IDPs into Benghazi the number of school aged children living in IDP camps has increased in recent weeks. The MoE has requested UNICEF's support in identifying the total number of pupils who will need to be enrolled in Benghazi schools in the coming school year, to begin in January 2012. Activities for tracking and monitoring out-of-school children, ECD activities in IDP sites, and teacher training, in cooperation with pre- and in-service training institutes/centres, have started this week.

112 recreational kits are being distributed (reaching around 9,000 children) to vulnerable schools and IDP sites across the country, especially in the western parts of the country. Schools in the Benghazi area that have enrolled IDP children are also prioritized in the distribution of recreational kits. 22 of these kits have been given to the Boy Scouts in Benghazi for activities in IDP camps, providing around 1,700 children with much-needed psycho-social support.

Work on a school-based nation-wide education assessment tool and operational mechanisms has been ongoing and the questionnaire has been finalized. This and next week, the questionnaire will be piloted in 60 schools in Misrata. The assessment is anticipated to contribute greatly to a better understanding of the challenges and gaps in the education sector, as the availability of reliable education data is limited, which jeopardizes adequate planning processes. The school-based assessed data will be linked to the EMIS.

## Communication

Libya talking points for NatComs have been updated by the Libya UNICEF team and shared with Regional Office.

An interview with UNICEF Spain on the situation of East Libya was conducted during the week.<sup>1</sup>

## Funding Situation

UNICEF requires additional funding to ensure continuous support in education, child protection, water and sanitation. Libyan unfrozen assets remain unavailable to humanitarian agencies.

- ECHO has funded the UNICEF water crisis response with 3,5 million USD.
- The Russian Government has pledged to support the Libya response with 1 million USD.

**Date of next Sitrep:** on or around 17 November 2011

For more information, please contact:

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<sup>1</sup><http://www.unicef.es/actualidad-documentacion/noticias/entrevista-sobre-el-trabajo-de-unicef-en-libia>

