

UNICEF Libya Flash Update: Western Libya Response



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for every child

Libya Flash Update
29 April– 05 May 2019

Situation in numbers



1.5 million
people affected



500,000
children affected



55,000
Population displaced

Response



13,540
People reached with
hygiene items



3,057
Children reached
with psychosocial
and recreational
services



27,400
People reached with
primary health care
services



1,820
Women and children
received food
supplementation

Humanitarian Situation Overview

There was an uptick in fighting in southern Tripoli between the 29 April – 05 May as both the Libyan National Army and the Government of National Accord (GNA) and affiliated armed groups used heavy machinery and conducted airstrikes in an attempt to control Tripoli. As a result, the United Nations High Commission for Human Rights (OHCHR) issued a statement on 30 April expressing grave concern that thousands of civilians, including children, remain stranded in conflict-affected areas in Tripoli. In addition, the United Nations continues to call for a humanitarian pause to allow for civilians to vacate conflict-affected areas.

By 05 May, 376 fatalities and 1,822 injuries were reported of which 23 civilian deaths, including one child and 102 civilian injuries reported.¹ Approximately 55,000 people have been forced to flee from their homes in Tripoli² and as at 02 May 29 collective centres, of which 15 are schools, have been established by the Tripoli crisis committee to host Internally Displaced Persons fleeing violence and conflict.³

Since the onset of the conflict on 04 April, disruption of basic services have been reported throughout Tripoli and western Libya and there is a breakdown of the waste management system. Tripoli's healthcare system has been heavily disrupted by the ongoing clashes and many health facilities are understaffed and overwhelmed.

The academic school year remains suspended in conflict affected areas, impacting some 122,088 children in nine municipalities near Tripoli.⁴ Many schools in other parts of Tripoli have been closed because teachers are not able to report to work or parents are reluctant to send their children to school, fearing their safety.

Increased levels of psychosocial stress have been reported by child protection partners working in collective centres. Parents in urban settings are requesting additional psychosocial sessions in addition to increased information/awareness sessions on how to support children in conflict.

Around 3,370 migrants and refugees remain trapped in centres close to the conflict lines and are in serious need of food, water, health care and protection services.⁵

UNICEF Emergency Response

UNICEF, on behalf of the Humanitarian Country Team leads the Water, Sanitation and Hygiene (WASH) and education sector and the child protection sub-sector as well as supporting emergency coordination for the Tripoli response.

UNICEF's response, in line with its Core Commitments for Children in Humanitarian Action, is dedicated to providing immediate life-saving protection, WASH, health, education and nutrition support to girls, boys and their families affected by the conflict.

¹ OCHA, 05 May 2019, [Tripoli Humanitarian Key Figures and Response](#)

² Ibid.

³ OCHA, 02 May 2019, Libya: Tripoli Crisis: Flash Update No.20

⁴ Information from Ministry of Education

⁵ Ibid.

On 05 May UNICEF airlifted 17 tons of emergency supplies to Misrata airport: medical kits to support 150,000 people for three months, High Energy Biscuits (HEB)/emergency ration for 1,400 people for a week, hygiene kits for 800 people and Ready To Use Therapeutic Food (RUTF) for the treatment of about 250 cases of Severe Acute Malnutrition.

By 05 May UNICEF reached around 3,057 conflict-affected children and 533 caregivers with specialized psychosocial support (PSS), recreational activities and awareness sessions in six collective shelters and in urban areas. These activities help conflict-affected children cope with trauma and re-establish a sense of normalcy. A two-day training was concluded on 01 May for 75 social workers within the Ministry of Education and the National Centre for Disease Control (NCDC) to build their capacity for implementing psychosocial/recreational activities and identifying children who need specialized psychosocial support.

UNICEF also assessed the protection needs of children and adolescents in the Gathering and Departure Centre (GDF), the protection needs of displaced people and migrants in Azzawia and is participating in an assessment with other members of the protection cluster related to overall protection needs of children affected by the crisis. UNICEF is also advocating for national authorities to grant approval for its implementing partner to provide PSS and structured recreational activities for children in the GDF.

For WASH activities, by 05 May, UNICEF has provided hygiene kits to 2,708 households, 13,540 individuals including 5,416 children in collective centres and urban areas in Tripoli. UNICEF also continues to assess the WASH facilities in collective centres to ensure that they meet the minimum international standards for water and sanitation and by 05 May has rehabilitated the WASH facilities in three collective centres hosting 340 people, including 213 children. Child kits including basic hygiene items have been distributed to about 100 unaccompanied and separated children in three detention centres.

As part of the health sector response, on 05 May UNICEF in partnership with the NCDC launched an anti-scabies and anti-lice awareness and treatment campaign in response to Scabies and Pediculosis outbreaks in some collective centres.

The 3,370 migrants and refugees in detention centres near the conflict lines remain in dire need of food. As a result, UNICEF and its national partners are conducting regular nutrition screening in these detention centres. UNICEF is also providing supplements with vital nutrients to the most vulnerable refugee and migrant women and children. By 05 May UNICEF provided HEBs to 1,300 migrant and refugee children and pregnant and lactating women in seven detention centres, micronutrient powder to 120 migrant and refugee children in two detention centres and micronutrient tablets to almost 400 women in two detention centres and collective centres.

Emergency Response Delivery

UNICEF is co-leading the Rapid Response Mechanism (RRM) in collaboration with the International Organization for Migration (IOM), World Food Programme (WFP) and the United Nations Population Fund (UNFPA) to immediately deliver a minimum package of essential commodities, including food, hygiene and other essential items at the onset of a crisis.

As at 05 May, 3,272 households (about 16,360 people of which 6,544 are children) have been assisted through the RRM in seven urban areas in and around Tripoli.

UNICEF is working with seven national, two international organisations and one governmental counterpart to respond to the needs of the affected families. UNICEF builds on its well-established partnerships with the municipal council and the central crisis committee to coordinate the response and ensure that there are no gaps and/or overlaps with other responders.

UNICEF has deployed a Third-Party Monitoring service provider to conduct regular programme and distribution monitoring visits where security permits.

Funding

In order to respond to the immediate needs to the affected families in Tripoli and western Libya, UNICEF and its partners immediately require US\$ 5.50 million with the funding gap of US\$ 4.78 million.

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Advocacy Messages

UNICEF calls on all the member states with influence to continue advocating for the belligerent parties to adhere to International Humanitarian Law and refrain from committing child rights violations, including recruitment or any association of them to the armed groups.

UNICEF is concerned by the use of explosive weapons in highly inhabited areas and call on all parties to the conflict to protect the civilian infrastructure such as water and sanitation installations, schools, medical facilities, humanitarian warehouses, power stations and others.

Aid-workers and health personnel should be protected by belligerent parties at all times and should not be targeted in any way. Aid workers should have unrestrained access to the affected girls and boys and their families.

UNICEF calls on the authorities to refrain from using schools to host internally displaced families as alternative options should be sought.

UNICEF calls on the authorities to end the detention of children and find child friendly alternatives.

