

Humanitarian Response by the Swiss Government in support of people affected by the Libyan crisis.

Humanitarian crisis in Libya and in the neighboring region.

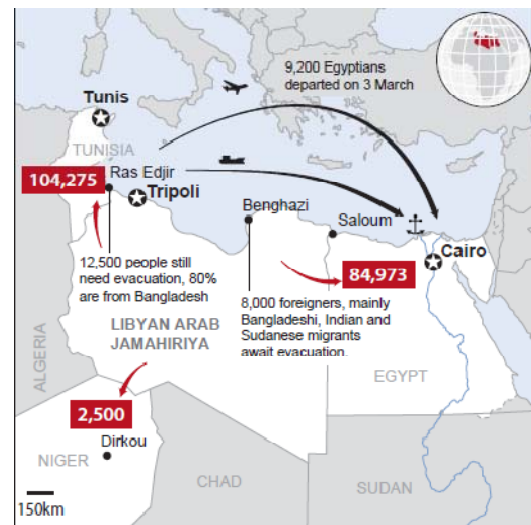
Following the political crisis and armed clashes in Libya, the humanitarian situation is precarious since mid-February in the country as well as in the neighboring countries. The violence and clashes have left many dead and wounded. Tens of thousands of persons are on their way out of the country. Information concerning the western Libya is unclear if not contradictory. Currently mostly foreigners seek to reach safety in neighboring countries, where they attempt to return to their country of origin. There are estimates of about two million immigrant workers, thousands of nationals from the Maghreb, from sub-Saharan Africa and from Asia (e.g. Bangladesh, Philippines, and China). At border check points with Tunisia and Egypt, where most of these people arrive in a state of exhaustion, Humanitarian Aid is now better coordinated. But the registration and repatriation of immigrant worker families remains challenging. Humanitarian access in Libya and the protection of the Libyan civilian population are the major claims made to the conflicting parties. Accordingly the UN has addressed an appeal to the Libyan Regime to grant free and unconditional access for humanitarian actors.

Swiss Government Humanitarian Response

The Swiss Government support to alleviate the suffering of the affected population in Libya and in the neighboring regions comprises:

- Three Rapid Response Teams (RRTs) with a total of 8 experts detached by the Swiss Government and the Swiss Humanitarian Aid Unit are on a mission to Tunisia and Egypt to assess and coordinate humanitarian needs in the fields of medical assistance and water and sanitation and to launch, in close coordination with the authorities and local partners, emergency assistance.
- The Swiss embassies in Cairo and Tunis have both received the assistance of a specialist from the Swiss Government Humanitarian Aid Unit in order to support appropriate coordination with government agencies, donors and humanitarian actors.
- The ICRC provides emergency relief to affected populations in Libya. ICRC medical teams have been deployed in Benghazi in eastern Libya in order to assist patients in hospitals and health centers. The contribution of the Swiss Government Humanitarian Aid to the ICRC amounts to CHF 500'000.-.

- An expert from the Humanitarian Aid Unit has been seconded to IOM (**International Organization for Migration**) in order to support the team at the Tunisian border. IOM mandate includes the registration, management and repatriation of migrants from Asian or African countries. The Humanitarian Aid of the Swiss Confederation supports IOM interventions through a contribution of CHF 500'000.-.
- The Swiss Red Cross (SRC) supports the Tunisian Red Crescent in offering assistance to the fleeing people. The SRC sent 3000 blankets, 200 tents and experts to the region. The funds for this support action (CHF 500'000.-) are made available by the Swiss Humanitarian Aid.



Source OCHA (4 of March 2011)

All above mentioned interventions are being implemented in collaboration with Egyptian and Tunisian authorities.

Financial Contributions

CHF 500'000 to ICRC
 CHF 500'000 to IOM
 CHF 500'000 to WFP
 (Additional resources for the experts from the Humanitarian Aid Unit)

Additional Information

SDC Humanitarian Aid and Humanitarian Aid Unit (HAU)
 Sägestrasse 77 Köniz
 3003 Bern
 Phone: +41 (0)31 322 31 24
 Fax: +41 (0)31 324 16 94
 E-Mail: hh@deza.admin.ch / www.deza.admin.ch



Fleeing people at the Egyptian-Libyan border (Photo SDC, 6.3.2011)