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

Humanitarian crisis in Libya and in the neighboring region.

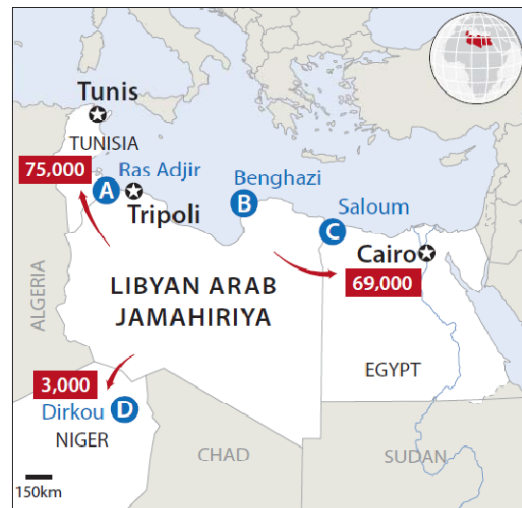
Following the political crisis and armed clashes in Libya, the humanitarian situation is precarious since mid-February in the country as well as in the neighboring countries. The violence and clashes have left many dead and wounded. Tens of thousands of persons are on their way out of the country. The situation has relaxed somewhat in eastern Libya and humanitarian actors such as ICRC and MSF have been able to reach Benghazi, but information concerning the western Libya is unclear if not contradictory. Currently mostly for eigners seek to reach safety in neighboring countries, where they attempt to return to their country of origin. There are estimates of about two million Egyptian and Tunisian immigrant workers, thousands of nationals from the Maghreb and of a large number of people from sub-Saharan Africa. In addition, before the crisis broke out, tens of thousands of immigrant workers from Asia were in the country (eg. Bangladesh, Philippines, China). At border check points with Tunisia and Egypt, where most of these people arrive in a state of exhaustion, population and local authorities are under pressure. Humanitarian access in Tripoli (and west of Libya), and the transport of relief supplies in this part of the country, remains impossible for now.

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 undertake humanitarian needs assessments. They provide emergency assistance in close coordination with the authorities and local partners.
- 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. Additional support to IOM in Egypt will be provided shortly. IOM mandates include the registration, management and repatriation of migrants from Asia or Africa countries. The Humanitarian Aid of the Swiss Confederation supports IOM interventions through a contribution of CHF 500'000.-.



Source OCHA (10 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

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