

## UNICEF Libya Flash Update: Western Libya Response



UNICEF Libya 2019

### Humanitarian Situation Overview

Despite the United Nations Support Mission for Libya's (UNSMIL) appeal for an extendable humanitarian truce during the holy month of Ramadan, a military aggression between the Libyan National Army (LNA) and the Government of National Accord (GNA) and affiliated armed groups continued in and around Tripoli between 06-12 May 2019. As at 09 May, 454 fatalities and 2,608 casualties have been reported including 23 civilian fatalities, including one child, reportedly, and 111 civilian injuries.<sup>1</sup> Populations in southern Tripoli are most impacted, supplies of essential goods such as food and fuel have been severely disrupted in these areas.

Furthermore, the fighting in Tripoli has forced approximately 62,700 people to flee from their homes in Tripoli and as at 10 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.<sup>2</sup>

Basic services continue to be disrupted by the conflict- water cuts are reported frequently and there is a breakdown of the waste management system which could lead to waterborne disease outbreaks. Tripoli's healthcare system has also been heavily disrupted by the ongoing clashes and many health facilities are understaffed and overwhelmed. Attacks on health services, staff members and ambulances -including the attack on field ambulances in Twaisha on 08 May- have also been reported.<sup>3</sup> A scabies outbreak has been reported in collective centres in Tripoli, affecting displaced and conflict affected children and their families.

The academic school year remains suspended in conflict affected areas, directly impacting some 122,088 children in nine municipalities near Tripoli.<sup>4</sup> Many schools in other parts of Tripoli have been closed or operating within limited capacity because teachers have not been able to report to work or parents have been reluctant to send their children to school, fearing for their safety. If the situation permits, it has been decided that all schools in conflict-affected areas would reopen on 09 June to allow students to sit in on exams before the start of the new school year in September 2019.

Increased levels of psychosocial stress have been highlighted by child protection partners working in collective centres and conflict affected neighbourhoods.

Around 3,145 migrants and refugees remain trapped in the detention centres close to the conflict lines and are in serious need of food, water, health care and protection services. On the night of 07 May two persons were injured in Tajoura Detention centre, hosting 564 detained refugees and migrants, following an airstrike targeting a nearby location.

### 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.

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Libya Flash Update - #4  
06 May– 12 May 2019

### Situation in numbers



**1.5 million**  
people affected



**500,000**  
children affected



**62,700**  
Population displaced

### Response



**15,800**  
People reached with  
hygiene items



**6,240**  
Children reached  
with psychosocial  
and recreational  
services



**67,400**  
People reached with  
primary health care  
services



**2,451**  
Women and children  
received food  
supplementation

<sup>1</sup> OCHA, 10 May 2019, Libya: Tripoli Crisis: Flash Update No.23

<sup>2</sup> Ibid.

<sup>3</sup> Health Sector Working Group, Libya, Situation Report No. 26

<sup>4</sup> Information from Ministry of Education Social media

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.

By 12 May UNICEF reached some 6,240 conflict-affected children and 550 caregivers with the psychosocial support (PSS), recreational activities and awareness sessions in collective shelters and in urban areas. These activities help conflict-affected children cope with trauma and re-establish a sense of normalcy.

On 09 May UNICEF signed a letter of agreement with the psychosocial support department at the Ministry of Education, in order to open 24 child-friendly spaces and provide child protection services for 20,000 conflict-affected children in Tripoli.

By 12 May, UNICEF provided hygiene kits to 3,160 households, 15,800 individuals including 6,320 children in collective centres and urban areas in Tripoli and Western Libya. UNICEF also continues to assess the WASH facilities in collective centres to ensure that they meet the minimum international standards for water and sanitation. By 12 May UNICEF and its partner maintained the water and sanitation facilities in five collective centres hosting 460 people, including 184 children. UNICEF has prepositioned water treatment chemicals and other required supplies to the General Company of Water and Waste Water and General Desalination Company to ensure that access of people to safe drinking water is not disturbed.

As part of an anti-scabies campaign launched by UNICEF and the National Centre for Disease Control, (NCDC), by 12 May UNICEF provided scabies treatment for 1,000 persons, including 400 children and provided lice treatment to 250 people, including 100 children. UNICEF also provided four emergency health kits (IEHKs) to four Primary Health Care Facilities (PHC) on 09 May in areas with large populations of displaced persons that are sufficient to support 40,000 people for three months. Since the beginning of the conflict 67,400 people were supported by UNICEF health response in PHC.

UNICEF and its national partner are also continuing to provide the regular nutrition screening in detention centres close in conflict-affected areas. UNICEF has also provided supplements with vital nutrients to the most vulnerable refugee and migrant women and children. By 12 May UNICEF provided High Energy Biscuits (HEB) to 1,505 migrant and refugee children, pregnant and lactating women in ten detention centres, micronutrient powder to 180 migrant and refugee children in two detention centres and micronutrient tablets to almost 766 women in two detention centres, collective centres and through four PHC.

### 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 to displaced households. As at 12 May, 3,642 households (about 18,210 people of which 7,284 are children) have been assisted through the RRM in urban areas in and around Tripoli.

UNICEF is working with the seven government counterparts, six national and one international organisations to respond to the needs of the affected families. UNICEF builds on its well-established partnerships with civil society organizations, community-based organizations, the municipal councils 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 and by 12 May has conducted 15 monitoring visits.

### 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\$ 4.38 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.

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