



Refugees and asylum seekers in detention centers

UNHCR welcomes the positive collaboration with the “Department of Combating Illegal Migration” (DCIM) under the Ministry of Interior to facilitate regular protection monitoring visits and the registration of persons of concerns in detention centres throughout the country. Between 16-17 April, UNHCR conducted a mission to Al Khums and Zliten to register asylum seekers in detention. In Al Khums, UNHCR registered 61 Somali (1 woman) and 33 Eritreans while in Zliten 17 Somali women and 35 Eritrean women were registered. 9 of them are pregnant. Another mission was conducted on 30 April 2013 to Tawaysha detention centre where 65 Somali nationals were registered. As of 30 April, UNHCR registered and provided attestation letters to 712 persons of concern in the following detention facilities: Sabah, Brak Shat, Surman, Al Khums, Zliten, Tawaysha and Sabrata. In the coming weeks, field teams will carry out registration also in detention centres in Gharyan, Misrata, Ajdabiya and Kufra as well as Benghazi. On 22 April, UNHCR succeeded in releasing 55 Somali and Eritrean women in vulnerable conditions from Zliten detention centre. Finally, UNHCR’s refugee registration centre is soon to be opened. Located next to UNHCR main premises, the centre will be used to register asylum seekers, carry out refugee status determination, and provide socio-counseling and assistance to refugees and asylum seekers.

Telephone hot-lines for refugees

UNHCR can be reached on the following numbers:

General queries / registration:	091 9897937
Emergencies / detention:	091 9897936
Syrians:	091 7129750
Benghazi hotline	092 3186819

Flood-response in Southern Libya

On Thursday 25 April, heavy rain-storms hit Libya’s Southern region. In the areas of Immralanib, Majdol, Tarpo, Zaolya and Hemerah floods destroyed homes and reportedly left at least five people dead. Many houses were damaged and dozens of people suffered injuries. Approximately, 584 families were displaced. On 29 April, UNHCR conducted a mission to the flood-hit areas and made available immediate humanitarian assistance to the displaced families. The office teamed up with the Libyan national forces including the Libyan Humanitarian Aid Mission, Libyan Red Cross and other Libyan NGOs to provide relief items. In responding to the requests of local authorities, UNHCR delivered 350 tents airlifted with the support of the Ministry of Defence as part of a nation-wide effort to quickly bring in humanitarian aid.

Irregular sea departures from Libya

During January and February 2013, no boat departures were reported. However, in early March and with the improvement of sea conditions, UNHCR has recorded a rapid increase in the number of irregular departures from Libya. Between 1 and 20 April, 15 boats left Libya carrying approximately 1,790 persons mainly from Somalia, Eritrea, Ethiopia, Sudan as well as Bangladesh, Egypt, Gambia and Ivory Coast (see *the table on the last page*). Of these boats, 4 were intercepted by the Libyan coast guards and survivors were eventually detained, while one boat reached Malta and the others made it to Southern Italy. UNHCR closely liaises with detention authorities in Libya to assist survivors and negotiate the release of vulnerable cases.

Distribution of selected relief items January and April 2013

<i>Location</i>	<i>Blankets</i>	<i>Hygiene Kits</i>	<i>Mattresses</i>	<i>Cloths</i>
Tripoli	64	0	64	0
Sabrata	120	118	0	146
Surman	120	112	0	216
Misrata	669	314	0	254
Benghazi	1,982	630	0	2,600
Barak Al Shatte DC	660	300	660	704
Al Gatroun DC	500	300	500	600
Sabha DC	650	300	650	730
Al Hamra DC	300	0	300	0
Abu Rshada DC	150	0	150	204
Sirte	387	165	421	0
Zliten	333	120	333	0
Al Khums	409	106	409	0
Ajdabiya	250	50	250	0
Total	4,564	2,110	3,737	5,454

IDPs in Eastern Libya

On 19 April 2013, UNHCR accompanied the Deputy Special Representative of the Secretary General (DSRSG), Georg Charpentier, the Head of the IDP department in the Prime Minister Office, to the IDP site Al Halies Camp in Benghazi. The mission was joined by the Head of LibAid. The delegation discussed with the displaced community their needs and their announced return to Tawergha on 25 June 2013. IDPs lamented the lack of humanitarian assistance and requested the UN and the government to support the planned return.

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Refugees from Syria

Syrians fleeing the conflict continue to arrive to Libya. As they are often compelled to enter the country irregularly, a large number of the refugees remain without a proper status and are exposed to risks of arbitrary arrest and detention. Several arrests and detention cases have been recorded at different checkpoints all over Libya. Since Libyan authorities have closed the Egyptian-Libyan border in February 2013, abuses have reportedly increased. Three unaccompanied minors have been identified and supported directly and through partners with cash assistance and relief items. Around 25% of the newly arrived refugees are in immediate need of food and relief items. Vulnerable groups like elderly persons and special medical cases are referred to UNHCR partners for special attention. Moreover, the growing number of Syrians arriving is putting additional pressure on an already strained housing sector and makes it increasingly difficult for Syrians to access accommodation at a reasonable price. Access to education and health care is also posing a set of challenges for the refugees from Syria. The Ministry of Health generously announced that health care for Syrian refugees would be free of charge. However, administrative measures are still pending and the decision has not yet taken effect.

Using mobile teams and despite security constraints, UNHCR registers and assists refugees from Syria. As of 2 May, 8,357 Syrian refugees had been registered with UNHCR in Libya. 54% of the registered Syrians are males, while 41% of the population is under the age of 18. Throughout March, UNHCR conducted a number of registration missions to Al Khums, Ajdabiya, Sirte and Misrata, while ongoing registration is taking place in Tripoli and Benghazi. On 18 April, UNHCR met with the local NGO Nawaris in Al Khums to discuss ongoing collaboration on registration and assistance activities towards Syrian refugees. On this occasion UNHCR gave a workshop on core refugee law issues, such as 1951 Convention, the 1967 Protocol, refugee exclusion clauses, refugee rights and obligations, durable solutions for refugees, UNHCR mandate and UNHCR protection strategy for Syrian refugees. On 30 April, a follow up registration mission to Al Khums was carried out. Over the coming weeks, UNHCR's mobile teams will be deployed to Misrata, Ajdabiya, Tobruk and other locations to continue registration activities and the delivery of relief items as well as cash-assistance.

Irregular sea departures from Libya – March and April 2013

Date interception/arrival	N. of individuals	Gender Breakdown				Country of origin	Arrival place
		M	F	Minor (f)	Minor (m)		
08 March 2013	80					Eritrea, Somalia, Morocco	Lampedusa, Italy
11 March 2013	77		3			Mainly Somalia	Lampedusa, Italy
11 March 2013	65		4			Sub Saharan Africa	Lampedusa, Italy
19 March 2013	32					N/A	Sabratha, Libya
29 March 2013	132					Sub Saharan Africa	Lampedusa, Italy
29 March 2013	98					Sub Saharan Africa	Lampedusa, Italy
29 March 2013	33					Sub Saharan Africa	Lampedusa, Italy
30 March 2013	106		12	17		Sub Saharan Africa	Lampedusa, Italy
30 March 2013	96		2	5		Sub Saharan Africa	Lampedusa, Italy
01 April 2013	82		10		1	Somalia	Malta
10 April 2013	90		1			Gambia, Mali, Senegal, Guinea, Bangladesh, Nigeria, Sierra Leone, Togo	Lampedusa, Italy
10 April 2013	84		16	32		Somalia	Lampedusa, Italy
11 April 2013	90		14	47		Somalia	Lampedusa, Italy
11 April 2013	119		29	27		Somalia	Lampedusa, Italy
11 April 2013	250		24	31		Eritrea, Ethiopia, Morocco, Palestine, Syria, Tunisia	Lampedusa, Italy
11 April 2013	200					Ethiopia, Eritrea	Libya
12 April 2013	100			10		Ivory Coast, Gambia, Guinea, Mali, Nigeria, Senegal	Lampedusa, Italy
12 April 2013	114		7	13		Bangladesh, Egypt, Eritrea, Ethiopia, Gambia, Ghana, Guinea, Mali, Nigeria, Pakistan, Senegal, Somalia, Uganda	Lampedusa, Italy
13 April 2013	94					Sub Saharan Africa	Zawyah, Libya
19 April 2013	90		12	15		Somalia	Lampedusa, Italy
20 April 2013	80					N/A	Libya
20 April 2013	110					Mainly Somali	Libya
20 April 2013	84		17	2		Eritrea, Ethiopia, Somalia, Sudan	Lampedusa, Italy
20 April 2013	203		8	6		Sub Saharan Africa	Lampedusa, Italy