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Refugees and asylum seekers

In September, UNHCR Libya renewed the documents of 170 refugees and asylum seekers. With the closure of Al Wafa's Office in Gargarish, renewal activities are now taking place in UNHCR's office. In terms of voluntary repatriation, 12 family and 2 individuals requested assistance to return to Iraq. In September, UNHCR conducted a number of monitoring visits to assess protection needs of persons of concern in detention centres in Libya (*see box on the right*). Furthermore the office in Tripoli set up an information telephone hot-line for refugees and asylum seekers. In East Libya, UNHCR continued to receive numerous requests through the hot-line. Most calls regarded information on legal documentation from UNHCR, renewal of attestations, resettlement and assistance with studies. Some also reported fear of arbitrary arrest. In East Libya, requests related to medical or financial assistance are now referred to UNHCR's implementing partner, CESVI.

Internally displaced persons (IDPs)

In September, UNHCR conducted protection monitoring visits in different IDP sites in Tripoli including the Marine Academy on 6 September and Fellah Camp on 3 and 5 September. Furthermore, on 2-3 September Mercy Corps and UNHCR distributed 3,671 relief items to 1,491 IDP individuals in Garyat. These IDP families were displaced from Mezda. On 17 September, UNHCR also visited the Oiya IDP Camp to monitor alleged eviction threats. UNHCR was informed that 24 families live there. 17 are Mashashya, 4 from Tripoli, 1 from Zawia, 1 from Beida and 1 from Misratah. Reportedly, no official eviction letter had been handed to the camp management. In terms of human rights violations, the family of a Tawerghan who had died in prison at the end of August is now filing a complaint to the court. UNHCR is closely following this case.

New Refugee Community Centre in Tripoli

On Wednesday 18 September UNHCR opened a new refugee community centre in Tripoli (*photo above*). The centre will be managed by Al Wafa and will provide assistance to refugees and asylum seekers in Tripoli. In collaboration with the Danish Refugee Council, lawyers will be available to provide legal assistance to persons of concern.

Detention centres

Tawyssha detention centre: On 6 September, UNHCR conducted a mission to Tawyssha detention centre to monitor protection needs of the detainees. 754 individuals are detained in this detention centre and half of them are Somali nationals. UNHCR interviewed a minor with extended family members in The Netherlands and one serious medical case was identified by International Medical Corps. The concerned person was subsequently released and transferred to a hospital for medical treatments.

Al Khums detention centre: On 12 September, third country nationals detained in Al Khums went on strike lamenting the poor detention conditions. The situation escalated and 45 of them escaped. Eventually, 10 of them were rearrested by detention authorities. Few of the detainees who were injured were transferred to a hospital the same day.

Ganfuda detention centre: UNHCR conducted a protection monitoring visit to Ganfuda detention centre where the number of detainees has increased. As of September, 832 persons are detained in the detention centre. Detainees include 31 Eritreans, 78 Somali, 30 Ethiopians, 61 Bangladeshi, 124 Egyptians, 120 Chadians, 360 Sudanese, 15 Niger, 2 Malians, 1 Cameroon, 1 Ghanian, 1 Ivorian and 8 Pakistani. 12 unaccompanied minors are also detained and the office is assisting them in collaboration with CESVI. UNHCR is also following up on the Eritreans and Ethiopians who were recently transferred from the Libyan Red Crescent site in Benghazi to Ganfuda detention centre.

Obari detention centre: A new detention centre has been recently established by the Department of Irregular Migration in Obari in South-West Libya. As of 21 September, 196 Sub-Saharan Africans were detained in Obari.

Syrian displacement in Libya

UNHCR Libya continues to register displaced Syrians. In September 105 cases (408 individuals) were registered. Numerous Syrians are currently in Misratah. Accordingly, between September and October, UNHCR conducted three missions to Misratah in order to register displaced Syrians families, identify individuals with special needs and distribute relief items. UNHCR met with the Local Council (LC) representative to discuss humanitarian issues and with the Libyan Red Crescent (LRC) concerning the registration and the distribution of relief items. Both LC and the LRC, expressed their willingness to support UNHCR initiatives. The distribution was also supported by Mercy Corps in Misratah. Overall the following items were distributed: 291 blankets, 291 sleeping mats, 60 kitchen sets, 60 hygiene kits and 60 jerry cans. During this mission, UNHCR registered 238 individuals (58 cases). Information concerning special needs was also recorded for further follow-up actions. UNHCR met separately with different Syrian community leaders to gather information on the estimated number of Syrians in Misratah. Reportedly, as of 4 September there were around 6,000 Syrians in Misratah. Half of them moved to Libya for the first time over the last 8 months. The other half had been living in Misratah for over a year. Two other visits to Misratah also were conducted. On 12 September 2012, UNHCR and WFP returned to Misratah to continue the registration and the distribution of relief items. Finally, on 4 October 2012, UNHCR met with the Head of the local council in Misratah and an agreement on cooperation concerning registration of displaced Syrians was reached.

Donors of UNHCR Libya

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Internally displaced persons in Libya As of August 2012

Area of displacement	Families	Individuals
Tripoli	3,383	20,132
Benghazi	3,003	14,091
Tarhouna	486	2,979
Brak Shate	403	2410
Dirj	397	2401
Sabha	285	1709
Shagiga	263	1707
Garyat	224	1241
Wardi Mardoom	173	1047
Abrugreen	134	823
Sirte	145	788
Kasr Bin Ghashir	121	786
Al-Khums	142	753
Zamzam Gadahia	102	679
Jufra	111	623
Zliten	96	582
Washka Mrah	89	549
Riyayna	75	514
Zintan	78	418
Mizda	62	360
Kareem	54	331
Souq Al Khamis	48	331
Garabully	66	323
Awlad Brick	58	310
Obary	84	287
Garet Agtaf	46	254
Jaafra	41	243
Asaabaa	35	232
Garyet West	44	209
Asbiaa	30	204
Nisma	28	194
Fawar	33	189
Abu al-Gharab	22	125
Murzuq	18	121
Sidi Sayek	18	121
Gmatiti al-Orban	15	107
Awamer	10	75
Msellata	10	49
Tobqa	11	45
Total	10,443	58,342

Source: Data compiled by Libyan Humanitarian Agency

New premises in Tripoli

On 15 September 2012, UNHCR moved to the new office in Tripoli in Almawashi Street, Sirraj. The telephone fixed-lines remain unchanged. However, at the time of writing, the land-line is temporarily out of order. Office staff are thus reachable on their mobile phones.