Local Launch of the 2017 Humanitarian Response Plan for Libya

The Humanitarian Country Team has appealed to donors to generously donate a total of US$151 million to cover the needs of more than 940,000 of the most vulnerable people targeted by the 2017 Humanitarian Response Plan (HRP) for Libya.

Based on a thorough analysis of all information available, the HRP looks into the priorities the international community and national partners engaged in humanitarian action intend to carry out in 2017. This is the second year that a HRP has been developed for Libya.

Hundreds of thousands of people in Libya live in unsafe conditions, exposed to violence and unable to access critical medical assistance and other basic social services. The Libyan healthcare system is on the brink of collapse, and 1.3 million people's lives are at risk without immediate access to emergency healthcare and essential medicines.

Without urgent protection assistance, vulnerable Libyans, migrants, refugees and asylum seekers will continue to suffer restricted freedom of movement, discrimination and marginalisation, and risk of death or injury from landmines and explosive devices.

The plan seeks to address the needs of the internally displaced, returnees, most vulnerable non-displaced Libyans, migrants, refugees and asylum-seekers in urgent need of life-saving healthcare, protection and access to basic goods and services like food, drinking water, sanitation services, shelter and education.

The plan prioritizes life-saving interventions and aims to target the specific and localised pockets of severe humanitarian needs in order to prevent further deterioration. Components of early recovery support will be partly mainstreamed in humanitarian support, but will also be addressed more holistically as part of other stabilization programmes.

The HRP is available in Arabic and English and can be accessed at https://www.humanitarianresponse.info/en/operations/libya.
IOM support to rescues at sea

IOM Libya, in consultation with its counterparts from the Libyan Coast Guard (LCG) and Coast Security, has rehabilitated disembarkation points at Tripoli’s main port. The site was provided with toilets and showering facilities for rescued migrants and a reception area was established in addition to civil work to connect electricity and water supply networks and the addition of a health clinic that was established in September 2016. The Tripoli Main Port disembarkation point is equipped to receive rescued migrants and provide urgent assistance before referring them for further support.

Engineers have also conducted five site visits of other disembarkation points and detention centres, including Deila and Al-Masfat disembarkation points in Azzawaya, Al-Hamra Detention Centre in Al Jabal Al Gharbi and Shuhadaa Al-Nasir and Abu Essa detention centres in Azzawaya for rehabilitation works.

On 24 November, life-saving rescue equipment was provided to the LCG in Tripoli, including satellite phones, torches, life jackets, live bouys, foil blankets and first aid kits. In addition, 10 desktop computers and 10 laptops were provided to the LCG to establish a database and to keep records of rescued migrants.

Non-Food Items for displaced Sirt families

Since 30 November 2016, UNHCR through its partner LibAid, the Libyan Humanitarian Relief Agency, is distributing Non-Food Items (NFIs) to displaced families from Sirt. This distribution is taking place in Tripoli, Misrata, Jufra and Nafusa Mountain and is targeting around 987 internally displaced families from Sirt. So far, 782 families (3,910 individuals) have been identified and received the NFI packages, based on the agreed vulnerability criteria developed by the Shelter/NFI Sector Working Group.

Each of the NFIs packages include: five thermal blankets, five sleeping mats, one reinforced plastic sheet, a kitchen set, two charged lamps and one heavy duty plastic bucket.

These items were selected to respond to needs due to the changing weather conditions as the weather gets colder in Libya.
When play makes a world of difference for children affected by conflict

As the youngest child in her family, five year old Dina was always cared for and loved. She had a special spot in her father’s heart and who spent hours playing with his daughter at their home in Azzawaya. Dina enjoyed playing with her parents and her two elder brothers.

One morning, Dina woke up to strange sounds in the house. She recognized familiar voices mumbling in the living room and she heard her mother crying. The family had received news that Dina’s beloved father had been kidnapped. Even though her father was safely back home in a few weeks, Dina still spent hours in her room, stopped going to her kindergarten and did not want to play with her friends.

Dina’s kindergarten teacher visited her at home explaining to Dina’s parents about a national organization, STACO, and supported by UNICEF, had been coming to the kindergarten to organise psychosocial and recreational activities for children affected by conflict, as well as organising weekly structured recreational activities in a Child Friendly Space in Azzawaya.

Dina’s family took her to visit the Child Friendly Space in their neighbourhood. After nine weeks of regularly visiting the Child Friendly Space, Dina became more interactive with her family, made new friends and no longer preferred to stay alone in her room. “I love playing with my new friends here”, says Dina while climbing the stairs of a slide with some of her friends. “I have made a lot of new friends here. My kindergarten friends like to come and play here with me too”, she adds.

As Dina is returning to her normal routine, she now regularly attends her kindergarten. “Dina is now getting back to her normal self with a huge change in her behaviour and most important, her beautiful smile is shining on her face,” says her mother.

Since the beginning of March, an average of 700 boys and girls attend weekly recreational activities and psychosocial programmes in a Child Friendly Space established by STACO in partnership with UNICEF in Azzawaya city. In challenging circumstances and time of crisis, Child Friendly Spaces offers to children a safe environment to play and engage in recreational activities which help them to regain a sense of normalcy.
Joint efforts to provide assistance to most vulnerable in detention

IOM, in coordination with other humanitarian agencies including UNHCR, Libyan Red Crescent, International Medical Corps, Danish Refugee Council, ACTED, WHO, MSF and others responded to the situation in Ghariyan Al Hamra Detention Centre where the situation for more than 1,700 people is alarming.

Coordinated through the Detention Task Force, members were divided into sub-groups focusing on health, protection, and resources in order to discuss and agree a plan to respond to the deteriorating condition in the detention centre.

Assistance provided included the provision of medical support, including the establishment of a medical clinic at the centre, provision of anti-scabies treatments and fumigation all living areas, as well as the delivery and distribution of NFIs and hygiene kits. Vulnerability assessments for 47 out of over 200 unaccompanied minors have already been undertaken. Additionally, emergency water supplies and wastewater services were provided for a month and the water pump and generator have been repaired. Additional proposed work to repair and refurbish washing facilities, living areas, and water and wastewater systems is ongoing.

WFP Rapid Food Security Assessment shows increasing food insecurity

In October 2016, World Food Programme (WFP) conducted a Rapid Food Security assessment indicating that some 17 per cent of internally displaced people (IDPs) are food insecure (an 11 percent increase since 2015) and 60 per cent are vulnerable to food insecurity. According to the assessment, refugees are among the most vulnerable and in need of food assistance. Particularly for refugees, accessible food is not sufficient for survival. Furthermore, female headed households face significant challenges in providing food. Many returnees also lack access to social services while others have lost their livelihoods or returned home to destroyed or damaged homes.

WFP continues to provide life-saving food assistance to those in need, and in November distributed food parcels to 64,574 internally displaced people in western, central and southern Libya. In December, WFP aims to reach 120,000 people. Funding remains the primary constraint for WFP’s operation, which requires US$8.2 million to continue feeding the most vulnerable populations for the next six months.

Queue at Tripoli Distribution Centre (Credit: WFP)