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Libyan Arab Jamahiriya • Crisis
Situation Report No. 39
24 May 2011

This report produced by OCHA Libya in collaboration with humanitarian partners, covering the period of 19 May to 23 May. The next report will be issued on or around 26 May.

I. HIGHLIGHTS / KEY PRIORITIES

- The United Nations Humanitarian Coordinator and a team including IOM, WHO and UNDSS, traveled to Tripoli from 20 – 22 May to discuss the return of an international humanitarian presence in the capital.
- In the Western Mountains area, the most affected populations are around Yafran, Al Qaala and Kekla.
- A fire overnight at Choucha Camp on the Tunisian-Libyan border resulted in the deaths of four camp residents and one injured.
- An IOM ship evacuated 785 people from Misrata, and delivered 300 metric tons of cargo including a field hospital and other medical supplies.
- The US$407 million revised Regional Flash Appeal for the Libyan Crisis is currently funded at 44 percent with US$179 million committed and $3.6 million in pledges.

II. Situation Overview

The Humanitarian Coordinator and a team including the International Organization for Migration (IOM), the World Health Organization (WHO) and UN Department of Safety and Security traveled to Tripoli from 20 - 22 May. The mission met with the Prime Minister, the Minister for Foreign Affairs and other senior officials, as well as diplomatic missions, and principally discussed enabling the return of an international United Nations humanitarian team in Tripoli.

The Government of Libya explained to the team that the impact of the lack of fuel was grave, and that food stocks and medical supplies were running low. Officials expressed regret for the attack against United Nations property and hoped that the UN and partners could respond to humanitarian needs, including the provision of basic food and medical supplies for all Libyans.

With its seventh-mission since mid-April, IOM evacuated 726 Third Country Nationals (TCNs) and 56 war-wounded by ship from Misrata on 23 May. Over 300 metric tons of humanitarian aid was also delivered, including a field hospital, 3 ambulances and oxygen cylinders.

According to reports by humanitarian partners and the media, shelling in Misrata is now heard less frequently and further away from the city centre. Electricity is available to around two-thirds of the city. There are a number of signs that suggest that the situation in Misrata continues to improve. However, the presence of unexploded ordnances (UXO) continues to be a serious concern.

At the Tunisian border with Libya, a fire overnight at Choucha Camp resulted in four deaths and one injury on 22 May. The security situation in the camp, which contains over 3,000 third-country nationals (TCNs), had...
further deteriorated due to violence among camp residents during demonstrations on 23 May. The situation is now calm and under control. UNHCR is closely monitoring the events and incidents are being investigated.

Fighting near Dhibat/Wazin and in Zintan continued from 19 May to 23 May. Infrastructure, including public water systems, have been damaged. The most affected populations are around Yafran, Al Qala and Kekla, estimated to be around 45,000 people as supply routes have been cut for long period of time. Libyan Diaspora groups are providing an unconfirmed quantity of supplies and are reportedly accessing the area regularly. Medical supplies are said to be still available, while surgical supplies, fuel, drinking water and food are still needed.

III. Humanitarian Needs and Response

SHELTER AND NON-FOOD ITEMS

Libya: Diaspora groups working in the Nafusa Mountains area continue to report areas where many people have fled towns and villages as a result of the ongoing fighting. Some 560 hygiene kits were distributed in Nalut and Jada. In Yafran and Al Qala, thousands of people have reportedly left. Prices for basic items have increased according to NGOs and local assistance organisations.

On 23 May, an IOM ship returned from Misrata to Benghazi, completing its seventh rotation since mid-April. Some 729 TCNs and 56 war casualties were evacuated. NGOs, donor representatives and media were also on board. The TCNs are now accommodated in the Libyan Red Crescent transit camp.

Tunisia: To date, over 55,674 Libyans have crossed to Tunisia through the Dhibat crossing point. On 21 May, 595 Libyans remained at Dhibat and 793 at Remada. UNHCR estimates that over 55,000 are being hosted by local communities.

Egypt: On 22 May, 846 people remained at the Saloum transit point, including 678 registered persons of concern (PoCs) and 46 other PoCs.

Chad and Niger: As of 23 May, 82,983 migrants, including 3,134 foreigners, have returned from Libya, according to Niger government records. Most migrants were evacuated by road through Dirkou (70,334) where the most vulnerable, including children, women and sick migrants are being assisted by IOM and partners.

FOOD SECURITY

Cluster partners continue the distribution of food packages for Libyan refugees hosted by the local communities in Tataouine, Medenine and Zarzis. Over 6,000 packages have been distributed by UNHCR. The Libya al Huraa Charity donated a truckload of dry food for the Libyan refugees at the Remada camp.

In the Nafusa Mountain area, aid sent from Tunisia by Libyan Diaspora groups is being stocked in warehouses in Nalut and Zintan. Humanitarian partners are assisting with distribution of food in areas where they have access but more food aid is needed.

WFP has so far mobilized 18,928 metric tons of food for Libya, enough to feed over 407,000 people for three months. In Benghazi, the Turkish Red Crescent is expecting another shipment of 50,000 food parcels for the IDPs and vulnerable communities in Benghazi. Food distribution continues in southern Tubruq.

HEALTH

On 23 May, IOM evacuated 56 war-wounded from Misrata to Benghazi. Six of these patients were in critical condition. International Medical Corps (IMC) provided medical support to some prisoners detained in Misrata. Medical access to prisoners remains limited and IMC referred some of the cases to the hospital.

To control and manage the medical inventory in Misrata, WHO will setup a database to register and maintain all medical supplies. IMC is planning to send surgical sets to Al Hikma and Al Hilal hospitals in Misrata.
WHO plans to send surgical kits to the Nafusa Mountains, enough for 500 surgical patients and 10 days of intensive care. Several non-governmental organisations continue to provide emergency medical care to conflict-affected areas in the Nafusa Mountains. In southern Tunisia, Médecins Sans Frontières (MSF) provides psychosocial counseling to Libyan refugees and will establish a Health Working Group to coordinate the health response at the Remada camp. Norwegian Church Aid has also deployed a psychosocial specialist.

Gaps & Constraints: A rehabilitation centre for the war-wounded is needed in Misrata. Shortages of medical supplies in the Nafusa Mountains health facilities persist.

**PROTECTION**

A temporary learning space for children (age 8 – 18) is operational in the Integrated Family Center area at Choucha Camp. Some 150 registered children are participating in primary and secondary education activities. Around 99 unaccompanied children and 4 separated children are residing at camps near Ras Adjir. Some 50 unaccompanied minors aged 12-17 years have arrived in Ras Adjir in the past week. Many are from Mali and were TCNs in Libya who had previously attempted to travel to Europe by boat. UNICEF is providing logistical and psycho-social support to the children, coordinating with IOM and UNHCR for their status, family reunion and repatriation.

At Remada Camp, 40 people with special needs have been identified. UNHCR is looking into establishing a referral system to monitor vulnerable cases.

**WATER SANITATION& HYGIENE**

Residents of Zintan have expressed concern that water supplies from private wells are insufficient as a long-term solution for water provision in the area. Water shortages in some areas are due to breaks in the distribution systems or to shortages of fuel for water tankering. Contaminated public boreholes and wells are also a concern. Populations are using mules and donkeys to transport water.

Cluster partners and the water authorities are analyzing the water situation in Misrata. The assessment will look at chemical stocks, fuel, and sanitation/hygiene issues. IMC has distributed 1,050 hygiene kits to more than 500 families in 14 IDP locations in Libya. Another 10,500 hygiene kits will be distributed to more than 4,700 IDP families in 19 locations. WASH facilities at many schools need rehabilitation.

In Tunisia at camps near Ras Adjir, lights have been installed close to latrines and showers. Cluster partners continue to install and improve WASH facilities at Choucha camp, the most populous camp in Tunisia. UNICEF and the Tunisian Ministry of Health are cleaning and disinfecting latrines and sanitizing kitchen areas at camps near Ras Adjir.

**EDUCATION**

In Benghazi, 250-300 children are benefiting activities in schools and child-friendly spaces. Activities with community volunteers continue in seven schools, and include IDP children from Ajdabiya and Misrata. The Education Council is planning to re-open 60 schools (50 public, 10 private) as a pilot scheme.

At Choucha Camp, 150 students are enrolled in school.

An assessment of children’s educational needs is planned for the Nafusa Mountains.

**EMERGENCY TELECOMMUNICATIONS**

Communications infrastructure has been installed in the UN compound in Benghazi and internet connectivity services are available. VHF and HF base stations have been installed. Licences are pending approval from the relevant authorities. Four UN staff are now operating from Tubruq and the ETC is providing them with satellite connectivity for voice and data communications.
Telecoms Sans Frontières (TSF) provides VSAT services to the NGO community in Benghazi and at certain border locations. TSF is also ready to deploy to Misrata to establish an additional NGO hub.

**LOGISTICS**

On 21 May, the Logistics cluster met with Libyan diaspora NGOs and community delegates in Zarzis to discuss the prevailing situation in areas west of Libya. Organizations are recommended to use the overland supply route through the Dhibat border to the Nafusa Mountains through Nalut to Zintan.

Libyan and Egyptian authorities at the Saloum border are reportedly requesting authorization for vehicles crossing the border, permitting access on a per-journey basis.

Open storage is available in Tunisia to humanitarian organizations in a 5,000 cubic metres compound in the Zarzis Free Zone, and an additional 3,400 cubic metres of covered storage is also available. WFP has five mobile storage units available to be erected as a contingency should more covered storage be required in the Free Zone. There are 2 mobile storage units available in Choucha Camp for other organizations.

WFP is continuing to offer free storage service to humanitarian organizations in the 20,000 cubic metres warehouse in Ganfuda, 25 kilometers from Benghazi. WFP is continuing to offer to the humanitarian community land transport services from Alexandria/Cairo to Benghazi/Tubruq on a cost recovery basis.

Since launching services on 1 May, UNHAS has transported 189 passengers from 40 UN agencies, diplomatic corps, NGOs, and media on 7 flights between Malta, Cairo and Benghazi. Further details about accessing these services, along with the revised schedule, are available at http://www.logcluster.org/ops/lyb11a/unhas-schedule-and-forms

**IV. Coordination**

Please refer to http://libya.humanitarianresponse.info/ for all cluster coordination updates and meeting schedules, and comprehensive information on the humanitarian response to the Libyan crisis.

**V. Funding**

According to the Financial Tracking Services, the US$407 million Revised Regional Flash Appeal for the Libyan Crisis is currently funded at 44 percent with US$179 million committed and $3.6 million in pledges. To ensure coordination of resources, please advise the Financial Tracking Service (fts@un.org) of all funding decisions and in-kind donations. FTS shows daily updates of funding for this appeal and other humanitarian response to the Libyan crisis.

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