



S.Najem/UNHCR



External update – May 2014

UNHCR LIBYA

### Internally Displaced Persons (IDPs) in Benghazi

The UNHCR Benghazi office worked with the Benghazi Local Council and the Tawerghan Local Council to help recently re-displaced Tawerghan IDPs, who are evacuated from IDP camps as a consequence of 16 May military offensive in Benghazi.

UNHCR visited camps displaced IDPs were evacuated to, including the Guaryouness and the Al Halies camps where most of the Tawerghan IDPS who left the Sidi Fraj Camp and Al Som & Al Bukm Camp are hosted.

So far, some 550 persons/112 Tawerghan families have been re-displaced. Existing camps, such as the Guaryouness and Al Halies, already host some 4,405 persons and have exceeded maximum capacity. Newly arrived IDPs, particularly in the Al Halies camp, are sharing plastic pipe-frame shelters with their relatives (*see picture above*) or are using small buildings as shelter. There is an urgent need for additional space and emergency tents for these newly displaced families.

UNHCR is working with the Prime Minister's Office, UNSMIL, Libyan Red Crescent and local councils to provide material support and assistance.

#### IDPs in Libya as of 15 May 2014

Area of origin	Individuals
Misrata	6,122
Tawergha	30,000
Sirte	9,404
Bani Walid	362
Western mountains	9,200
Nalut	1,403
Ghadames	2,402
Kufra	292
Sebha*	4,800
<b>Total</b>	<b>63,985</b>

\*Numbers are estimated displacement

### Refugees and Asylum Seekers in Detention Centres

In the first quarter of 2014, UNHCR provided assistance to over 5,400 persons detained in the various immigration detention centres in Libya. Assistance includes distribution of mattresses, clothes, hygiene kits and other core relief items as well as supporting a medical partner agency to provide much needed medical care inside the detention centres.

UNHCR regularly visits all 19 immigration detention centres managed by the Department for Combating Illegal Migration (DCIM). UNHCR follows closely the conditions of refugees and asylum seekers detained in Libya.

Detention conditions are poor. Rooms are overcrowded; food and medical assistance are inadequate. UNHCR is particularly concerned about conditions at the Surman Immigration Detention Centre and Abu Selim Holding Centre where detainees, especially women and children, have very limited access to potable water and medical services.

UNHCR chairs the Detention Working Group that aims to coordinate distribution of relief items among agencies and serve as an advocacy platform for alternatives to detention for refugees and asylum seekers, particularly women and children. It is estimated that there are over 100 children, including unaccompanied and separated minors, in immigration detention centres. Many of them are placed in cells with other adult detainees and are at great risk of possible abuses.



**1 family torn apart by war  
is too many**

World Refugee Day 2014



## Syrian displacement

As a matter of priority, UNHCR provides assistance to asylum seekers from Syria. They live in difficult conditions, with many being unable to make ends meet. Registration of Syrian asylum seekers is ongoing and carried out at the UNHCR registration centers in Tripoli and Benghazi as well as through mobile registration missions across Libya. Relief items are delivered as well as providing ad hoc assistance to vulnerable cases. As of 15 May, 18,514 persons from Syria were registered with UNHCR in Libya (*see table below*).

### Refugees and asylum seekers registered with UNHCR in Libya as of 15 May 2014

Country of Origin	Individuals
Eritrea	4,470
Iraq	3,094
Palestine	5,201
Somalia	2,319
Sudan	1,962
Syria	18,514
Other nationalities	665
Total	36,225

### Telephone hotlines for refugees

UNHCR can be reached on the following numbers:

<b>Community Services:</b>	<b>091 712 7644</b>
<b>General queries / registration:</b>	<b>091 9897937</b>
<b>Emergencies / detention:</b>	<b>091 9897936</b>
<b>Syrians:</b>	<b>091 7129750</b>
<b>Benghazi hotline:</b>	<b>092 3186819</b>

### Vacancies at UNHCR

UNHCR is recruiting for a Senior Supply Assistance (GL-5) in the Tripoli office. More information can be accessed here: <http://www.libyaninvestment.com/libya-jobs/128610-united-nations-high-commissioner-for-refugees-senior-supply-assistant.html>

## Maritime Incidents

Through the established alert system with the Libyan Coast Guard, UNHCR has assisted over 4,100 persons rescued at sea or after their boats were intercepted since January 2014.

Since 29 April, UNHCR has learned that there are over 121 fatalities at sea involving 3 boats.

On 6 May, UNHCR was informed by the Libyan Coast Guard that approximately 130 persons were being brought to shore after their boat was damaged at sea and later capsized a few miles off the coast of Libya. On board were nationals from Sudan, Ghana, Mali, Burkina Faso, Nigeria and Senegal. UNHCR Field Team was on hand along with a medical partner to assist survivors. Over 77 people drowned in this incident, so far only some 40 bodies have been recovered or were washed ashore.

In response to what UNHCR sees as a growing emergency, UNHCR has started the "Know Before You Go" information campaign. UNHCR is in partnership with the Libyan Coast Guard, NGOs, UN partners and asylum seekers to provide accurate information about the potential risks, what can be expected on board the boat and upon arrival or interception by the Libyan Coast Guard.



Survivors from the 6<sup>th</sup> May shipwreck. UNHCR was on-hand to distribute emergency relief items and provide medical assistance through its medical partner.

### Donors to UNHCR Libya

The European Commission

### For further information, please contact:

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