

## Summary

- Following the attempt of Tawergha IDP families to return to their homes from 1 February onwards, over 200 IDP families remained displaced to date (approximately 15 families in Hrawa and 187 families in Qararat al-Qataf), among them are at least 339 children. They have established two new settlements in the two locations as a sign of their determination to return home.
- They are facing harsh living conditions during these winter months as they are exposed to the cold and high winds. They are also lacking electricity, shelter and ambulances.
- The humanitarian community reiterates its calls on all actors to protect civilians; to ensure their basic rights are being met; and to prevent further displacement from occurring. IDPs from the Tawergha community and other IDP groups have a right to durable solutions.

## Libya: Tawergha IDPs new tented settlements (19 February 2018)



## Situation Overview

Following the Flash Update of 7 February, whereby reports of the total number of IDPs who have been trying to return to Tawergha were unconfirmed and fluctuating, it was decided that an inter-sectoral rapid needs assessment should take place. As of 6 February, there were three known and identified gathering points where IDPs are waiting to return to Tawergha: Qararat al-Qataf, Hrawa and Tarhuna. It has since been learned that the Tarhuna site has been present since 2011, with no new IDP arrivals. The IDPs have been there since 2011; there are 75 families residing at the site with 15 children below the age of five (11 girls and four boys) and 45 elderly people (28 women and 17 men).

Rapid needs assessments took place during the second week of February in two locations where new IDPs are located, Hrawa (east of Sirt) and Qararat al-Qataf (40 km from Tawergha city). This multi-sectoral assessment was undertaken by the protection, shelter/NFIs, health, and WASH sectors. The assessment identified 187 families in the tented settlement in Qararat al-Qataf and 15 families in the tented settlement in Hrawa.

## Humanitarian Needs

There are two newly established IDP settlements, whereby tents have been set up for shelter. These settlements are mainly in Qararat al-Qataf and in Hrawa. The number of families at these settlements remain low. The assessments conducted resulted in the following findings:

- Qararat al-Qataf: To date, 187 families have set up tents and they have indicated that they will remain there until the situation is resolved and they can return to Tawergha. There are 276 children below the age of 5 (234 boys and 42 girls) at the site and there are 155 elderly individuals above the age of 60 (83 men and 72 women). The assessment found that the families are in need of tents and ambulances, shelter/tents, latrines and bathing facilities, generators for electricity and permanent health units.
- Hrawa: To date, 15 families have set up tents in the area. Within these families, in total there are 63 children below the age of 5 (30 boys and 33 girls) and nine elderly people (three men and six women). These families are in need of water, tents and medical assistance.

## Humanitarian Response

The humanitarian community is providing assistance to the two newly established IDPs tented settlements:

### Qararat al-Qataf:

- The WASH sector through UNICEF and its implementing partner Libyan Society has provided 300 hygiene kits and 15 emergency latrines and installed 25 storage tanks. In consultation with the Bani Walid Water Authority/Municipality, UNICEF has also delivered 13 trucks of water, containing 10,000 litres of water each. Coordination is carried out through the municipality and response is done according to needs. Libyan Society has also since 1 February distributed 40,000 litres of water using water trucks in coordination with Bani Waleed Water Authority/Municipality.
- The health sector through WHO and the Ministry of Health established on 16 February a makeshift clinic with five doctors and is providing health services. The clinic has enough supplies and medicines for at least one month to treat diabetes, hypertension and other non-communicable diseases.
- On behalf of the food security sector, WFP with its implementing partner STACO has provided in-kind food assistance (pasta, rice, wheat flour, chickpeas, sugar, tomato paste and oil) to the 187 families in the Qararat al-Qataf IDP tented settlement. In total, 500 Tawergha IDP households were provided with emergency food assistance at this site as families came from

Hrawa, Tarhuna and Bani Waleed once they heard about the food distributions, picked up the packages and subsequently returned to their places of residence.

- The shelter/NFI sector through UNHCR and its implementing partner LibAid has provided 70 tents and distributed NFIs to all the families residing at the site. Furthermore, the sector through IOM and Ayady Al Khair Society (AKS) and in coordination with LibAid and the Ministry of Defence provided mattresses, pillows, family hygiene kits and diapers to 170 families in Qararat al-Qataf

Hrawa:

- The health sector has recruited a doctor to partially cover the most urgent health needs for one month starting from 16 February.

Planned response:

- The Ministry of Education is making arrangements for the students in the tented settlements to participate in upcoming exams.
- Humanitarian actors are currently planning longer term assistance in line with humanitarian principles and the 'do no harm' approach to the IDPs in the tented settlements.

### IDP guiding principles

IDPs are often more vulnerable than other people because they may have lost (access to) their homes, livelihoods, documentation and often face difficulties in accessing basic services. However, they enjoy the same rights and freedoms as other persons in the country without discrimination. The authorities have the primary responsibility to provide protection and humanitarian assistance to IDPs within their jurisdiction. Likewise, they are responsible to prevent and avoid conditions that may lead to displacement and for creating the conditions for IDPs to return or resettle safely and voluntarily. The relevant authorities need to grant humanitarian organisations rapid and unimpeded access to IDPs to provide them with assistance, if the relevant authorities are not able to provide this support. While IDPs are free to move back to their area of origin, they cannot be forced to return to areas of conflict. IDPs have a right to a durable solution to their displacement.

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