



## UNHCR LIBYA External update

February 2012



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### Internally displaced persons

The office is closely monitoring protection needs of displaced population mainly from Tawergha. Immediate issues of concern regard reports of violence against Tawergha, missing persons and the identification of IDPs from Misratah and Sirte. Other issues regard access to education for IDPs in both eastern and western Libya. UNHCR together with UNSMIL continues to liaise with Tawergha leaders as well as representatives from Misratah to encourage and support reconciliation efforts.

### Refugees and asylum seekers

In collaboration with its implementing partner, Al Wafa, UNHCR is in the process of renewing refugee certificates issued prior to the revolution. A vulnerability verification exercise will be conducted among refugee families upon renewal of their attestations. The office continues to provide regular counseling and to deliver assistance to vulnerable refugees.

### Syrian displacement

Since Libya's National Transitional Council (NTC) declared the country liberated in October 2011, the numbers of Syrians arriving in the country has increased. The total number of Syrians arrived in Libya over the last few months can be as high as 10,000. The majority, however, is reluctant to come forward for fear of disclosing their identity. Some 2,000 individuals so far have been registered by local Syrian associations. UNHCR is cooperating with Syrian communities to coordinate assistance efforts in Benghazi and Tripoli and to provide technical assistance with the registration of the population and the delivery of non-food items (NFIs). Protection monitoring and profiling are regularly conducted in order to identify protection and assistance gaps as and extremely vulnerable individuals for urgent follow-up actions.

### Projects supported by UNHCR:

- **Shelter assessment:** In collaboration with ACTED, in 2011 UNHCR assessed 9,549 houses in Nafusa Mountains, Bani Walid, Sirte and other areas by level of damage and household vulnerability.
- **Mine risk education:** Mines Advisory Group (MAG) is delivering vital Risk Education to students in newly reopened schools in Libya. The number of beneficiaries reached via risk education sessions and flyers/ poster distribution in 2011 was 44,691 and many more will be reached in 2012.
- **Distribution of heaters:** During January 2012, UNHCR in collaboration with LibAid and DRC distributed 700 heaters to Tawergha IDPs in Tripoli (photo left corner above).

### Estimated IDPs

Location	Returned IDPs	IDPs
Tripoli	40,000	-
Misrata	203,603	10,716
Brega	7,570	-
Ajdabiya	12,000	-
Benghazi	50,706	-
Tawargha	-	30,000
Sirte	58,662	19,554
Bani Walid	68,077	22,692
Western Mountains	4,800	9,200
Nalut	12,629	1,403
<b>Total</b>	<b>458,047</b>	<b>93,565</b>

### Delivery of non-food items – January 2012

Cities	Beneficiaries	Quilts (Pcs.)	Mattresses (Pcs.)	Plastic Sheets (Pcs.)	Kitchen Sets (set)	Hygiene Kits (box)
Benghazi	Refugees	636				
Tobruk	Displaced Syrians	490	490		117	117
Benghazi				5		
Benghazi	Displaced Syrians	22	22		22	6
Ajdabiya	IDPs	200	200		40	120
Tripoli	IDPs			400		
Tarhouna	IDPs	4,971		200	639	
Derj	IDPs	875			130	
<b>Total</b>		<b>5,846</b>	<b>712</b>	<b>605</b>	<b>948</b>	<b>243</b>

### Donors of UNHCR/Libya

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### Protection issues in focus

- **Mixed-migration:** UNHCR has received reports of irregular migrants being subject to arrest and detention. Recently UNHCR visited the Ganfouda detention center in Benghazi, where migrants, refugees and asylum seekers are detained. The purpose of the visit was to monitor and address protection needs of persons of concern.
- **Search and rescue:** The office is concerned about the significant number of individuals trying to attempt to reach Europe. Between 10 and 30 January 2012, six boats with approximately 377 Somali attempted to reach Europe by boat. Between 18-19 January 2012, Port Authorities in Misratah found 15 bodies allegedly of individuals who were seeking to reach Italy.
- **Mission to Kufra:** Between 29 January and 2 February UNHCR conducted a mission to Kufra to monitor the protection situation of asylum seekers and refugees and in particular of detainees. The office is dispatching relief items as well as food items in partnership with WFP.

### For further information, please contact:

Emanuela Paoletti, Associate External Relations Officer  
Mobile: +218 (0)95 4140022  
Email: paoletti@unhcr.org