



@UNHCR/A. Shaqiri

## Fact-sheet – January 2013

UNHCR Libya

### Presence and national legal framework

UNHCR has been present in Libya since 1991. It has been carrying out a number of activities including registration, refugee status determination (RSD), durable solutions such as repatriation and resettlement and provision of assistance to urban refugees and other persons of concern. Libya is a signatory to the 1969 Convention of the Organization of the African Union (OAU) governing the specific aspects of refugee problems in Africa but is not party to the 1951 Convention relating to the Status of Refugees. In the absence of a national asylum system, registration, documentation and refugee status determination activities have been carried out by UNHCR.

### Operational background

In consultation with the interim government, UNHCR is working to expand the protection space and re-establish refugee processing activities, including registration, refugee status determination and identification of durable solutions. One major concern for UNHCR remains the significant internal displacement of people. During and after the conflict, UNHCR has provided emergency shelter, cash assistance, medical care and educational support to persons of concern including internally displaced persons. Current activities also focus on capacity building in the form of training and information sessions with representatives of civil society organisations. With positive signals from interim government, UNHCR will also provide technical assistance toward establishing national asylum institutions.

#### UNHCR staffing and budget

**Staffing:** UNHCR has 38 national staff, 6 international staff and 1 International United Nation Volunteer.

**Budget:** 2012 expenditures: US 7,078,958 and 2013 requirements: US 16,555,150.

#### Partnerships

**Government counterparts:** Ministry of Foreign Affairs.

**Libyan partners:** Libyan Humanitarian Agency (LibAid) and Al-Wafa Charity Society.

**International partners:** CESVI; International Medical Corps; Islamic Relief Worldwide and Danish Refugee Council

### IDPs in Libya as of January 2013

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
Sabha	240
<b>Total</b>	<b>59,425</b>

Source: Libyan Humanitarian Relief Agency (LibAid)

### Refugees and asylum seekers as of January 2013

Country of Origin	Refugees	Asylum seekers	Total
Algeria	6	0	6
Egypt	3	1	4
Chad	19	50	69
Cameroon	1	0	1
DRC	9	17	26
Eritrea	473	1,254	1,727
Ethiopia	27	76	103
Ivory Coast	1	2	3
Iraq	2,477	607	3,084
Liberia	23	2	25
Nigeria	0	1	1
Palestine	2,953	81	3,034
Rwanda	6	0	6
Somalia	175	605	780
Sudan	651	377	1,028
Togo	1	1	2
Syria	2	4,714	4,716
Ghana	0	1	1
Gambia	0	1	1
Morocco	0	3	3
Sierra Leone	0	1	1
Tunisia	0	1	1
Jordan	0	2	2
Mali	0	2	2
<b>Total</b>	<b>6,827</b>	<b>7,799</b>	<b>14,626</b>

## CORE ACTIVITIES

### Refugees and asylum seekers

As of January 2013, 6,827 refugees and 7,799 asylum seekers were registered with UNHCR in Libya. Most refugees and asylum seekers live in urban areas. In particular, UNHCR:

- Promotes and facilitates durable solutions including resettlement and voluntary repatriation.
- Conducts regular protection monitoring to identify, register and document persons in need of international protection.
- Through implementing partners Al Wafa, CESVI, Islamic Relief and the Danish Refugee Council provides assistance to refugees in terms of education, health, psycho-social counselling and legal assistance.

### Syrian displacement

Since 2011 an increasing number of persons fleeing Syria has sought protection in Libya. Some of them are vulnerable and have special needs. As of 27 January, UNHCR registered 4,714 persons fleeing Syria including 2,607 men and 2,107 women.

- UNHCR monitors, profiles and registers persons displaced from Syria.
- Relief assistance is provided on a regular basis to Syrians through civil society organisations.

### Mixed migration

A significant number of migrants continue to enter Libya using irregular channels. Among this population some people are in need of international protection. Accordingly, UNHCR:

- Provides assistance with the identification of people in need of international protection as well as unaccompanied minors, victims of trafficking and other vulnerable individuals.
- Convenes trainings on protection needs in the context of mixed-migration for government officials, civil society and other actors (*see box on the right*).
- Collaborates with relevant national and international partners to share information on rescue at sea and to support, through its offices in Rome, Malta and Tripoli, the coordination efforts between all three countries.

### Internally displaced persons

The situation of IDPs in Libya continues to remain a source of serious concern. Out of more than 550,000 persons displaced in Libya during the revolution, the large majority have been able to return to their places of origin. Yet, some 59,425 persons face a situation of protracted displacement. These include IDPs from Tawergha, Mushashya, Siaan and other communities. Hence

- UNHCR regularly monitors the protection situation in sites hosting internally displaced populations across the country.
- Together with LibAid and the Office of the UN Resident Coordinator / Humanitarian Coordinator (RC/HC), UNHCR provides material support to displaced populations and coordinates assistance, including camp coordination and camp management.
- With its partners IMC and Mercy Corps, UNHCR supports interim and durable solutions and the reconciliation process for IDPs.

## Capacity building activities

Collaboration with Libyan Civil Society: UNHCR regularly organises trainings in Tripoli and Benghazi with Libyan NGOs on international protection principles, property rights and camp management.

Training with the Libyan government: On 2-3 December, UNHCR convened a workshop for government officials on asylum and migration. The course covered UNHCR's mandate and international protection, mixed-migration, durable solutions, detention of refugees and rights and duties of refugees. The course was attended by the Ministry of Foreign Affairs, Ministry of Justice, Ministry of Interior, detention centre managers, and the Libyan Coast Guard.

Oxford - Tripoli course on forced migration: In May 2012, UNHCR convened a workshop on asylum and displacement at the University of Tripoli in collaboration with the Refugees Studies Centre (RSC) at the University of Oxford. In January 2013, UNHCR started the first of a three part course on forced migration at the University of Tripoli also with the RSC. This is the first course on forced migration ever convened in Libya.



IDP site in Sidi Slim - International Peace Day (October 2012)



Course on forced migration at the University of Tripoli (January 2013)

### Donors of UNHCR Libya

European Commission, Japan, Spain, Switzerland and the United States

### For further information, please contact:

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