



## Fact-sheet – April 2014

## UNHCR Libya

### Presence and national legal framework

UNHCR has been present in Libya since 1991. Through its offices in Tripoli and Benghazi, UNHCR carries out a number of activities including registration, refugee status determination (RSD), facilitation of durable solutions such as repatriation and resettlement and provision of assistance to urban refugees and other people 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. Libya is also a signatory to the 1954 Convention relating to the Status of Stateless Persons and the 1961 Convention on the Reduction of Statelessness.

### Operational background

In consultation with the government, UNHCR is working to expand the protection space by increasing registration and refugee processing activities and promoting national asylum legislation. Of major concern to UNHCR is the growing number of refugees and asylum seekers using Libya as a transit/departure point for irregular migration to Europe, as well as the systematic detention of refugees and asylum seekers. UNHCR works with the Department to Combat Illegal Migration, Ministry of Interior to provide core relief items and medical assistance to detainees arrested for irregular entry into Libya or following rescue at sea efforts (see picture above).

With positive signals from the government, UNHCR stands ready to provide technical assistance toward establishing national asylum institutions and legislation.



### Refugees and asylum seekers as of 20 April 2014

Country of Origin	Individuals
Eritrea	4,287
Iraq	3,097
Palestine	5,197
Somalia	2,290
Sudan	1,867
Syria	18,157
Other nationalities	643
<b>Total</b>	<b>35,538</b>

### IDPs in Libya as of 20 April 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

#### UNHCR staffing and budget

**Staffing:** UNHCR has 36 national staff and 7 international staff.

**Budget:** 2013 expenditures: USD 6,720,356 and 2014 requirements: USD 19,206,108

#### Partnerships

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

**Implementing partners:** CESVI and International Medical Corps.

**Operational partners:** ICRC, IOM, UNICEF, and UNSMIL.

## CORE ACTIVITIES

### Refugees and asylum seekers

As of 20 April 2014, 9,240 refugees and 26,298 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 CESVI and International Medical Corps (IMC) provides assistance to refugees in terms of education, health, psychosocial counselling and legal assistance.

### Syrian displacement

Since 2011, an increasing number of people fleeing Syria have sought protection in Libya. Some of them are vulnerable and have special needs. As of 14 April 2014, UNHCR registered 18,115 persons fleeing from Syria.

- UNHCR monitors, profiles and registers persons displaced from Syria.
- Relief items and cash assistance are provided on a regular basis to vulnerable Syrians through UNHCR's partners CESVI and IMC.

### Mixed migration

A significant number of migrants continue to enter Libya using irregular channels. Among these populations 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 core protection principles and refugee law 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 absence of durable solutions for the remaining IDP communities in Libya continues to remain a source of serious concern. Out of more than 550,000 people displaced in Libya during the revolution, the large majority has been able to return to places of origin. Yet, some 59,425 people face a situation of protracted displacement. In addition to this, over 20,000 people were recently displaced in Sebha in recent months and while many have returned over 4,800 continue to live in IDP settlements (*see picture to the right*). These include IDPs from Tebu, Tawergha, Mushashya, Siaan and other communities.

- UNHCR provides training on the Guiding Principles on Internal Displacement.
- UNHCR regularly monitors the protection situation in sites hosting internally displaced populations across the country.
- 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 including Libyan Youth Forum, H2O, Child Promise, and Nawaris.

Training with Libya civil society, government officials and partner agencies:

In the month of March, UNHCR conducted four comprehensive training workshops in Tripoli and Misrata. The training sessions were well attended with over 60 participants from the Libyan civil society, such as the National Council for General Liberties & Human Rights, Ministry of Interior's Information Security Directorate and UNHCR's partner agencies. The training was delivered by UNHCR staff and focused on the principles of international protection. In particular, the following topics were covered: refugee definition, asylum in the international legal framework, UNHCR mandate, UNHCR services, mixed-migration in the Libyan context and the compatibility between asylum principles and Shari'a law.



Displaced people from Sebha where UNHCR provided emergency relief. Awbari, February 2014

### Donors to UNHCR Libya

The European Commission

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