

# Update no 7 Humanitarian Situation in Libya and the Neighbouring Countries

14 March 2011

## Highlights

- **Libya:** The Special Envoy of the UN SG for Libya and the UN Humanitarian Coordinator for Libya departed on a mission to Tripoli on 12-13 March following communication between the UN Secretary-General and the Emergency Relief Coordinator with the Foreign Minister of Libya on their concerns over large-scale population displacement and outflow into the neighboring countries of Egypt and Tunisia as a direct result of open hostilities inside Libya. The mission will assess the situation and consult with the Libyan authorities on the immediate humanitarian, political and security situation. UNHCR is not part of the mission but has provided critical talking points for discussions with the Libyan authorities.
- **Egypt:** A group of 35 Somalis, 6 Eritrean and 2 Ethiopian, who were evacuated from Benghazi to Alexandria in an IOM vessel were finally able to disembark and were taken to Saloum transit area by Egyptian authorities. The group received food, blankets, sheets and medical attention. On 11 March, UNHCR protection staff started refugee status determination interviews.
- Air evacuations of third country nationals continue from Egypt and Tunisia. More flights are needed to keep up with the pace of new arrivals.
- UNHCR is improving conditions in camps/transit areas through distribution of non food items.
- Contingency planning is ongoing at the border areas under UNHCR lead.
- The UNHCR High Commissioner's visit to Egypt is planned for Tuesday, 29 March.



A sea of tents in the UNHCR-run Choucha camp./UNHCR March 2011

## Population Movements

According to the IOM/UNHCR Humanitarian Evacuation Cell (HEC) on 11 March, 265,041 persons had arrived to Tunisia (total 143,726 including 18,768 Tunisian, 8,922 Libyans, 116,036 others), Egypt (total 112,402 including 68,594 Egyptians and 48,808 others), Niger (total 2,205 including Niger 1,865 and 340 others) and Algeria (total 6,708). The Moroccan news agency reported that approx. 9,100 Moroccans were repatriated from Tripoli to Morocco.

Border crossings as of 11 March				
TUNISIA			EGYPT	
Tunisians	Libyans	Others	Egyptians	Others
18,768	8,922	116,036	68,594	43,808

As of 12 March, a total of 21,909 persons were evacuated including 19,346 from Tunisia (11,890 Egyptians and 7,456 others) and 2,563 from Egypt (HEC coordinated flights).

On 11 March, 9 flights were scheduled: from Djerba to Bamako (3), Lagos (1), Dhaka (3) and Cairo (2). On 12 March, 5 (HEC) flights were scheduled: from Djerba to Dhaka (3), Khartoum (1), Cairo (1).

On average, 6,000 people are arriving at the borders with Tunisia and Egypt each day and more than 20,000 migrants remain stranded, according to IOM. The majority of these people are Bangladeshis.

60  
YEARS



## Country Updates

### LIBYA

**UN mission to Tripoli (OCHA):** On 11 March, The UN Humanitarian Coordinator for Libya arrived in Tripoli with a Senior Humanitarian Advisor, an Information Officer and a Security Officer to discuss access modalities for humanitarian organizations to Libya and consider the humanitarian needs of conflict-affected population.

The Mission met with Under-Secretary Dr. Habib Tamar of the Ministry of Public Health and Dr. Khaled Kaaim, Deputy Foreign Minister. They confirmed that the departure of foreign workers is continuing but indicated that their departure was having an adverse impact on life in Tripoli (as they supported much of the infrastructure and services).

Among other issues, the Mission was assured of access to locations outside of Tripoli during their visit. It was suggested that the Government would facilitate a visit to Misratah (east of Tripoli) and to Az Zawiyah (west of Tripoli).

The Government also welcomed the possibility of a humanitarian needs assessment mission. They asked for a clear indication of the requirements of a mission and areas to be accessed.

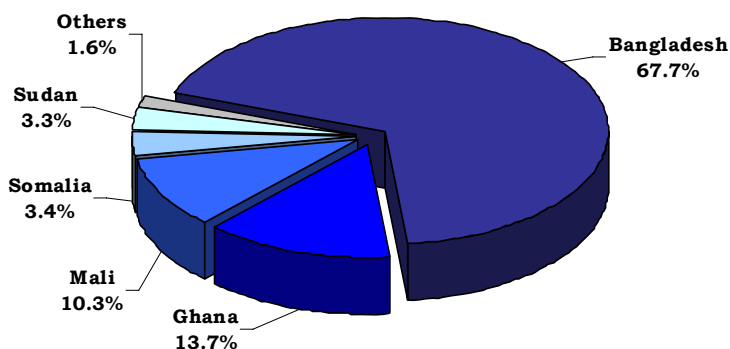
### TUNISIA

**Tunisia (Ras Djir border crossing):** On 12-13 March, a total of 3,186 persons arrived (1,319 on 12 March and 1,867 on 13 March) mainly 1,615 Ghanaian, 890 Malian, 431 Bangladeshi, 96 Sudanese, 50 Somalis, 46 Egyptian, 15 Algerian and 13 Nigerian. On 13 March, some 2,000 persons departed from the camp.

#### • Protection

**Choucha Transit camp:** As at 13 March, there were 17,130 persons in the camp (capacity 20,000). Numbers change daily due to new arrivals as well as departures.

**Choucha camp population as of 13 March**  
Total population 17,130



There are currently some 700 persons of concern to UNHCR in the camp, mainly Somali (581), Eritrean (113), Ethiopian (1) and Syrian (1). Total of 129 Somalis have expressed their willingness for voluntary repatriation to Hargeisa.

#### • Humanitarian assistance

The shipment of 319 tents has arrived at the camp. In addition, 1,700 tents arrived to Djerba from Amman and another 1,600 tents and 2 rub halls are expected to arrive on 14 March.

The UAE Red Crescent opened a new camp. Some 250 persons, mainly from Ghana, Mali, Nigeria and Cote D'Ivoire are staying there.

### EGYPT

#### • Protection

**Saloum border crossing:** On 11-12 March, 3,967 persons (1,930 on 11 March and 2,037 on 12 March) crossed the border including 1,175 Libyans, 574 Sudanese, 437 Egyptians, 239 Chadian, 193 Bangladeshi, 155 Nigeriens, 100 Pakistanis, 74 Iraqis, 5 Palestinians and one Ivorian (according to Egyptian authorities).

It is estimated that some 4,500 persons remained overnight at the border (including 104 women and 93 children according to UNICEF). Some 3,700 individuals with processed passports are ready to leave depending on the availability of flights. A total of 147 left the transit area including 90 Chadian and 39 Nigerians (IOM).

The UNHCR team reported 54 persons of concern to UNHCR in the transit area (35 Somali, 9 Ivorian, 6 Eritrean, 2 Ethiopian, 2 Congolese (unaccompanied minors). UNHCR is continuing its screening to identify others.

On 11-12 March, a total of 2,116 persons, all Bangladeshis, departed (IOM).

#### • Humanitarian assistance

There is an urgent need for additional blankets as the temperature at night at the border drops considerably. A shipment of 5,000 blankets and 3,000 mats locally procured in Cairo will arrive in Saloum on 14 March.

### SUDAN

**Sudanese border with Libya (Malha border crossing):** The Inter-agency/Government fact finding mission of 7 March revealed that an unknown number of persons, predominantly Sudanese, have crossed the border. Only two Ethiopians had reportedly crossed the border and were moving towards Omdurman.

Local authorities expect the return of 20,000 -30,000 Sudanese who escaped the conflict in Darfur in 2003-2004 and found refuge in Al Kufra and Sert areas in Libya.

Potential areas of UNHCR's intervention are: support the authorities in establishing reception and screening facilities and hiring local staff; deployment of personnel to screen and register (with Sudanese authorities) third country nationals seeking international protection as well as to register Sudanese refugees from Libya; individual follow up on refugee returnees; and supply of non food items.

## ITALY

**Arrivals to Lampedusa:** As of 12 March, two groups of 34 and 37 men arrived from Tunisia. With the exception of one person, all others are Tunisians.

**Evacuation of Eritreans:** The group of 58 who arrived in Crotona last week is being registered as asylum seekers. Approximately ten, however, have left the reception center where the group was hosted for unknown destinations.

The Italian Government has decided to evacuate an additional 70 Eritreans from Libya. Further details are not available at this time.

The Ministry of Interior met with UNHCR and IOM to confirm that the Mineo center will become operational and that asylum seekers will be transferred there from other reception centers. More details are to follow.

**UNHCR presence:** Two staff remains in Lampedusa, one in Sicily. Additional staff will be recruited and deployed to Mineo as soon as possible. Staff is recruited for Puglia and Calabria (replacing those who were deployed to Lampedusa).

## MALTA

Disembarkation of the 13 Eritreans who arrived on board a Maltese cargo ship from Tripoli has taken place. They will undergo the regular asylum procedure in Malta.

### Air Evacuation

As of 12 March, the IOM/UNHCR Humanitarian Evacuation Cell (HEC) coordinated a total of 144 flights (IOM/UNHCR arranged flights and bi-lateral flights coordinated with HEC).

### Emergency Staffing

As of 10 March, a total of 77 emergency staff will have been mobilized for Tunisia (33), Egypt (20), Libya (17) as well as the Middle East and North Africa Bureau (MENA) and the Airops Cell at HQ (7). 43 staff members are already on site in Tunisia (22), Egypt (9), Libya (6) and in HQ (6).

Contingency planning for the Libya operation at the border areas is ongoing under UNHCR's lead. A senior UNHCR Contingency Planning Coordinator is in Tunisia.

### Resource Mobilization

UNHCR's total requirements are USD 32.2m. So far, UNHCR has received contributions in the amount of USD 21,379,629. There are indications from several donor countries of further funds to be expected in the coming days.

According to OCHA, the contingency planning figures in the flash appeal will be revised and a revised version of the Flash Appeal will be made available in two weeks time.



Bangladeshi migrant workers, some of them stranded for more than a week, in the arrival hall of Egypt's Sallum border post. / UNHCR / F.Noy/ March 2011

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# Libyan Arab Jamahiriya and neighbouring countries

## Population movements since 20th February 2011

As of 14 March 2011



**FIGSS**  
Field Information and  
Coordination Support Section

Sources:  
UNHCR, Global Insight digital mapping  
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Population figures:  
IOM / UNHCR Humanitarian  
Evacuation Cell

The boundaries and names shown  
and the designations used on this  
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- Capital
  - UNHCR Regional Office
  - UNHCR Country Office / National Office / Liaison Office
  - UNHCR Field Unit
  - Refugee camp
  - Asylum-seeker centre
  - Urban refugee location
  - Main town or village
  - Secondary town or village
  - Population movement (border crossing)
  - Air evacuation
  - Crossing point
  - International boundary
  - Main road
  - Secondary road
  - Railway
- Elevation  
(Above mean sea level)
- 3,250 to 4,000 metres
  - 2,500 to 3,250 metres
  - 1,750 to 2,500 metres
  - 1,000 to 1,750 metres
  - 750 to 1,000 metres
  - 500 to 750 metres
  - 250 to 500 metres
  - 0 to 250 metres
  - Below mean sea level

