

This report is produced by OCHA in collaboration with humanitarian partners. It was issued by Cairo and New York. It covers the period from 2 March to 3 March. The next report will be issued on or around 4 March.

I. HIGHLIGHTS/KEY PRIORITIES

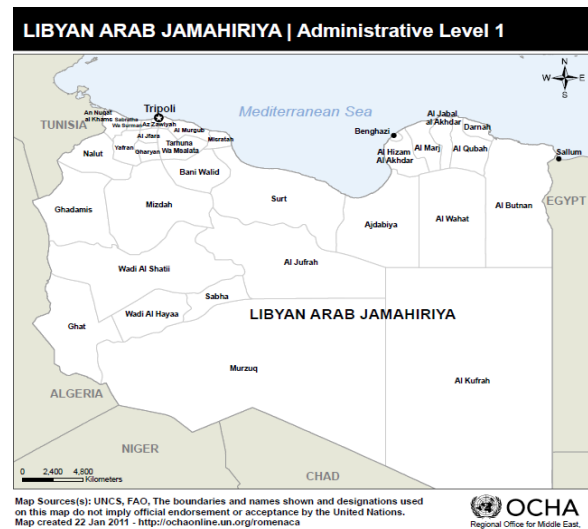
- United Nations Secretary-General Ban Ki-moon convened a meeting of United Nations agencies and regional organizations to discuss a coordinated approach to the humanitarian situation in and around Libya. He intends to appoint a special envoy responsible for coordinating the relief effort.
- According to IOM, 172,874 people, mainly migrant workers, have left Libya to date.
- The OCHA-led joint United Nations rapid assessment reported little evidence of destruction between the Egyptian border and Benghazi. There are concerns over the implications a fuel-supply cut will have on the continuity of water and power supplies for critical infrastructure.
- According to the Financial Tracking Service, US\$35.6 million has been contributed and \$10 million pledged from donors in response to the crisis.

II. Situation Overview

On 3 March, the evacuation of people at the Tunisia-Libya border intensified, with several countries sending planes to evacuate people from the congested border area. The United Nations Resident Coordinator in Tunisia said there is a need for further rotations of planes and other means of transport to decongest the reception areas.

On 3 March, the UNITAR/UNOSAT satellite monitoring programme of the Libyan crisis recorded several thousand people located primarily within the Ras Ejdir border-crossing facility along the Libya-Tunisia border. The imagery also indicated multiple concentrations of people within different waiting and processing sites, and long lines of people and small vehicles waiting to move beyond the border into Tunisia. See:

www.unitar.org/unosat/node/44/1544



The evacuation of third-country nationals from Tunisia continues to be a priority for humanitarian agencies. Although there are an estimated 15,000-18,000 people still in transit camps in Tunisia, no imminent humanitarian crisis was reported from the border. In parallel with the push for faster evacuation, UNHCR is increasing its reception capacity to up to 20,000 people.

At a Member States briefing in New York on 3 March on the Libya situation, agencies recognized the invaluable support provided by the Tunisian and Egyptian authorities in responding to this crisis and keeping their borders open.

The OCHA-led joint United Nations rapid-assessment mission reached Benghazi. The mission reported en route that there is little evidence of destruction between the Egyptian border and Benghazi. Shops are open and well supplied. However, the supply line from Tripoli has been cut and there are concerns of increased lack of fuel, food and medicines.

A WFP ship carrying 1,182 metric tons of wheat flour, at the request of the Red Crescent in Libya, has returned to port in Malta due to security concerns. It was headed to Benghazi.

Western Libya remains the centre of concern. ICRC and MSF have called for immediate and safe access to the area. According to ICRC, credible reports indicate that two Libyan Red Crescent ambulances were shot at on 3 March in Misrata, west of Benghazi. Two volunteers were injured and one ambulance was completely

burnt. ICRC calls on those taking part in the violence to comply with their obligation to respect and protect in all circumstances medical personnel, medical facilities and any vehicle used as an ambulance. Health personnel, particularly Libyan Red Crescent volunteers, must be able to provide aid unhindered and in safety.

United Nations Secretary-General Ban Ki-moon convened a meeting with United Nations agencies to discuss a coordinated approach to relief efforts in and around Libya. Agencies represented included OCHA, WHO, WFP, UNHCR, UNDP, UNICEF, the Department of Peacekeeping Operations and the Department of Political Affairs. The meeting also involved senior officials from the League of Arab States, the Organization of the Islamic Conference, IOM, the Organization for Security and Co-operation in Europe, the Council of Europe, and the European Union.

Participating organizations urgently appealed to Libyan authorities to allow immediate and unimpeded access into Libya so they can determine humanitarian needs and provide assistance inside the country if required, including in the west. The African Union leadership was unable to join the meeting, but offered support.

The Secretary-General announced his intention to appoint a special envoy responsible for coordinating relief efforts.

III. Humanitarian Needs and Response



EMERGENCY SHELTER/MIGRATION/POPULATION MOVEMENTS

According to IOM, 172,874 people, mainly migrant workers, have left Libya as of 2 March. Of those people, 79,199 went to Egypt, 91,175 to Tunisia and an estimated 2,500 to Niger.

Needs:

Libya: According to IOM, some 5,500 migrants are in different locations in Benghazi port and in surrounding warehouses. The migrants are primarily from Bangladesh, India and Sudan.

Tunisia: According to UNHCR, some 18,000 people are in the transit camp on the Tunisian side. An unknown number of people are still across the border waiting to be processed. The border area is crowded with buses taking people out. It appears that in order to maintain a steady flow, the Tunisian authorities are adjusting the number of people being allowed in with the number being evacuated out of Tunisia. WHO expressed health-related concerns if the reception area in Tunisia is not decongested.

Egypt: Aid workers report that some 3,000 to 4,000 people have been stranded for several days at the Saloum border crossing, with poor sanitation facilities.

Niger: IOM is preparing for the arrival later this week of an estimated 2,000 more Nigeriens and other African nationals who have recently managed to cross Libya's southern border at Gatrone. IOM is working with local authorities and partners, including UNICEF, ICRC and MSF Spain, to set up a transit centre in Agadez, Niger.

Response:

Libya: IOM is evacuating stranded migrants out of Benghazi. Priority is given to 200 vulnerable migrants, primarily women, children and those in need of medical assistance. The migrants will be evacuated by road to the Egyptian border at Saloum. A sea evacuation is planned to Alexandria, Egypt, at a later stage. Locals have reportedly set up support groups to provide food and water to migrants.

Tunisia: Flights provided by governments and agencies, including the UK, France and UNHCR, are flying in rotation to evacuate Egyptian migrant workers to Cairo. In agreement with Tunisian and Egyptian authorities, and in response to appeals from IOM and UNHCR to assist, France is preparing to evacuate 5,000 Egyptians who arrived in Tunisia by air and boat.

The Tunisian health authorities are reportedly responding well to the health needs of people crossing. ICRC has an emergency team and medical supplies on the Tunisian border waiting to enter western Libya as soon as security conditions permit. UNFPA plans to distribute medical reproductive health kits and basic items to women crossing the border into Tunisia, as well as psychosocial support to traumatized people fleeing into Tunisia. An MSF team is at the border waiting to cross into Libya.

Egypt: IOM is providing food, water, non-food items and medical assistance to stranded people. Those people include some 3,000 Bangladeshis and 1,000 Sudanese.

Niger: Nothing Significant To Report (NSTR)



FOOD

Needs: WFP is planning to assist 1,060,000 people in Libya, Tunisia and Egypt.

Response: WFP endorsed a three-month Regional Emergency Operation totalling \$38.7 million. It will be reflected in the upcoming Flash Appeal. A WFP Logistics Coordinator for the North African region has been deployed to Cairo. Additional logistics and information management officers are preparing to deploy to Tunisia, Egypt and Libya. Programme, finance and administration officers are also being deployed. The Tunisia Red Crescent continues to distribute 80 metric tons of WFP high-energy biscuits to people waiting to cross from the Libyan side of the border, and to those in transit camps and in the reception area at the border crossing.

Gaps & Constraints: A WFP ship carrying 1,182 metric tons of wheat flour, at the request of the Red Crescent in Libya, has returned to port in Malta due to security concerns. It was headed to Benghazi. Despite the continued local generosity in providing food and water to arrivals, the situation is placing an increasing strain on the resident population.



HEALTH

Needs: NSTR

Response: More humanitarian organizations are moving relief commodities into Libya through the Saloum border crossing. The commodities are destined for Benghazi. On the morning of 3 March, Kuwait Red Crescent and WHO sent 27 tons of medical supplies to Benghazi. A French convoy with three trucks of medical equipment reportedly also passed. UNFPA is expecting reproductive health kits and equipment for emergency obstetric care to reach Cairo by next week. The supplies will address health gaps identified by partners at the border and in eastern Libya.

Gaps & Constraints: Local interlocutors told the joint United Nations mission in Benghazi that there is a need for drugs for chronic diseases, such as cancer and epilepsy.



PROTECTION

Needs: Sub-Saharan nationals in Tripoli remain at risk of violence from local populations on suspicion of being Government-recruited mercenaries.

Response: The limited international presence in Libya makes it extremely difficult to obtain reliable information on protection concerns.

Gaps & Constraints: NSTR

IV. Coordination

A European civil-protection team comprising six experts will be deployed to Djerba, Tunisia, to ensure coordination with UNHCR and IOM on site.

For details of InterAction member agencies and their current activities in response to the situation in Libya, visit: www.interaction.org/crisis-list/interaction-members-respond-crisis-libya

V. Funding

According to the Financial Tracking Service, \$35.6 million has been contributed and \$10 million pledged from donors in response to the crisis.

On 3 March, United Nations entities and IOM met in Geneva to agree priority areas for the \$5 million allocation from the Central Emergency Response Fund, focusing on the situation at the Tunisian border. The agreed priority areas are as follows: decongestion of transit areas through airlifts; humanitarian assistance packages to people in transit, which will include non-food items, food, WASH and health; and protection coverage and monitoring at the border, in transit locations and on departure.

All humanitarian partners, including donors and recipient agencies, are encouraged to inform the Financial Tracking Service of cash and in-kind contributions by e-mailing: fts@reliefweb.int.

VI. Contact

New York:

Mr. David Carden
Officer in Charge
Americas & the Caribbean, Europe, Central Asia and Middle East (ACAEME) Section
Coordination Response Division, OCHA New York
Tel: +1 212 963 5699
E-mail: carden@un.org

Ms. Heidi Kuttab
Humanitarian Affairs Officer
Americas & the Caribbean, Europe, Central Asia and Middle East (ACAEME) Section
Coordination Response Division, OCHA New York
Tel: +1 917 367 3365
E-mail: kuttab@un.org

Ms. Stephanie Bunker
Spokesperson and Public Information Officer
Public Information Unit, OCHA New York
Tel: +1 917 367 5126
E-mail: bunker@un.org

Geneva:

Mr. Thierry Delbreuve
Humanitarian Affairs Officer
Tel: +41 (0) 22 917 1688
E-mail: delbreuve@un.org

For more information, please visit:
<http://ochaonline.un.org>
www.reliefweb.int
www.irinnews.org

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