

Update no 12 Humanitarian Situation in Libya and the Neighbouring Countries

22 March 2011

Highlights

- The coalition continued to enforce UN Security Council Resolution 1973 by attacking Libya's command-and-control facilities, air defense sites as well as some ground forces in Libya. At the same time, pro-Gaddafi troops are reportedly continuing their offences. Increased internal displacement inside Libya has been reported, especially in Ajdabiya, Derna, Tubruk and Goba areas.
- The UN Security Council has turned down Libya's request to call an emergency meeting to discuss the current situation in Libya. The next UN Security Council meeting is scheduled for 24 March.
- The number of Libyans arriving to Tunisia and Egypt remain moderate. Reportedly, pro-Gaddafi forces have strengthened their presence at the Libyan border with Tunisia, which could limit access to the border. UNHCR interviewed Libyan families crossing to Egypt. Their main reasons to come to Egypt were medical assistance, trade and visiting relatives. UNHCR has received a small number of wounded Libyans in Choucha camp.
- In response to the external displacement, UNHCR is working on a solutions framework for an emergency resettlement effort. The proposal is calling for multilateral support for non-Libyan refugees and other persons in need of international protection reaching the borders of Egypt and Tunisia. The beneficiaries of this emergency resettlement effort include refugees recognized by UNHCR while they were in Libya as well as non-Libyan refugees recognized subsequent to their flight from Libya.
- As of 21 March, the joint IOM/UNHCR Humanitarian Evacuation Cell (HEC) coordinated a total of 246 flights (IOM/UNHCR arranged flights and bi-lateral flights coordinated with HEC). 58,200 people were evacuated, including 51,063 from Tunisia. 6,935 from Egypt and 202 from Algeria. The 'No-Fly Zone' is increasing the costs of humanitarian evacuation flights. Operators are avoiding Libyan airspace and have increased their rates by more than 13% to compensate for the additional flight time and fuel.



A group of Sudanese citizens on the sidewalk of the border post of Saloum.
/ UNHCR/ 2011

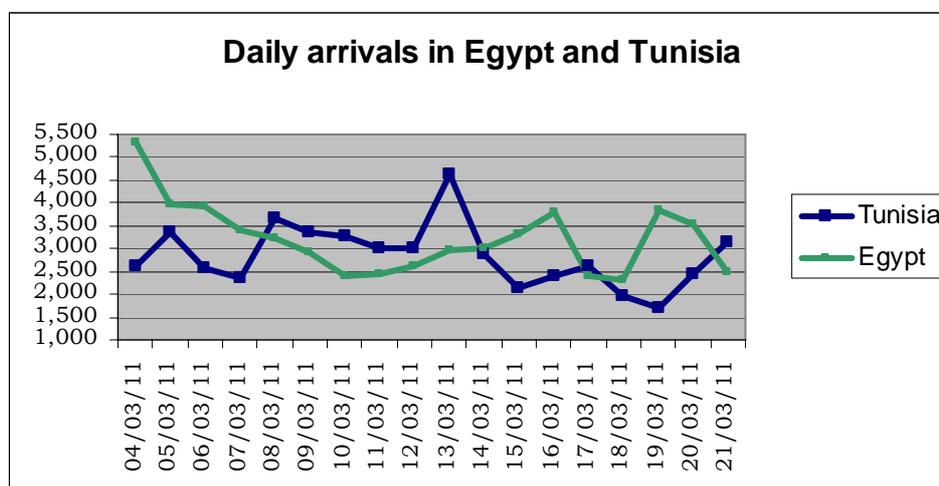
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YEARS



Population Movements

By 21 March, a total of 332,858 persons arrived to Tunisia (170,614), Egypt (143,349), Niger (9,727) and Algeria (9,168). The numbers fluctuated strongly in the past days, with a decrease of new arrivals in Egypt and an increase at the Tunisian border.

Border crossings as of 21 March 2011			
Tunisia	Egypt	Niger	Algeria**
TOTAL 170,614	TOTAL 143,349	TOTAL 9,727	TOTAL 9,168
Tunisians 19,207	Egyptians 76,412	Nigeriens 8,910	
Libyans 20,279*	Others 66,937*	Others 817	
Others 131,128			
* This figure includes usual border traffic of commuters, frontier workers etc.			
**Source: OCHA 20 March			



Country Updates

LIBYA

Increased internal displacement has been reported. There is no international humanitarian presence in western parts of the country and extremely limited presence as well as capacity in the east. The ability to get humanitarian supplies to Libya is also limited and there are reportedly shortages and increased prices for medical supplies, fuel and basic commodities in the eastern part. Limited access to basic services such as health and education are reported across the country. On 22 March, 5,000 blankets and 5,000 sleeping mats were shipped from Cairo to Benghazi.

TUNISIA

Tunisian border with Libya (Ras Ajdir border crossing): On 21 March, a total of 3,141 crossed the border. In spite of rumours that the Libyan border with Tunisia might be closed by Libyan authorities, the border remained open throughout the past days.

Choucha Transit camp: As of 21 March, 4,748 people are residing in the camp. Despite the decline of arrivals into the camp, UNHCR is increasingly being approached by a broad range of nationalities, including Ivorian, Liberians, Nigerians and Ghanaians that claim they are unable to return home. There are currently 973 persons of concern to UNHCR in the camps, including 803 Somalis and 170 Eritreans.

Departures: Between 19-21 March, 1,092 people from Bangladesh, 1,611 from Sudan, 871 from Ghana and 577 others were evacuated.

UAE Red Crescent camp (est. capacity 1,400): On 21 March, a total of 475 persons are staying in the camp, including 151 from Egypt, 138 from Sudan and 120 from Burkina Faso.

• Protection

A referral mechanism for persons with specific needs has been established by UNHCR. It is posted on the OCHA website and will be updated regularly. The referral mechanism has proved to be working and has

facilitated quick and effective referrals of vulnerable cases.

Two community meetings with persons of concern were conducted by UNHCR in the camp, which were attended by 100 Eritreans and 600 Somalis. While primarily intended as meetings to manage expectations in terms of durable solutions, the meeting covered a broad range of issues, including their rights and duties in the camp as well as UNHCR's registration and Refugee Status Determination processes over the coming weeks.

UNHCR interviews with person of concerns have revealed cases of rape and kidnapping against sub-Saharan (Nigerian) women by Libyans as well as assassinations of Nigerian men by opposition forces as suspected pro-Gaddafi mercenaries.

• Contingency Planning

There is overall shelter capacity (tents erected and in stock) for some 54,000 persons in the existing reception sites.

EGYPT

Egyptian border with Libya (Saloum border crossing): A total of 3,000 people arrived on 20 March, including Libyans (1,560), Egyptians (1,344), Sudanese (55), Syrians (62) and others.

Some 1,300 Chadian remain in the port area.

• Protection

On 20 March, 34 Palestinians were repatriated to Gaza. Six Palestinians remain stranded on the Libya side.

UNHCR's protection team registers people of concern to UNHCR through mobile ProGres.

On 18 March, the Humanitarian Coordinator for Libya together with UNHCR's Director for Middle East and North Africa visited Saloum to obtain first hand information on the continuing outflow of

people from Libya and to meet with international agencies and local authorities.

• Humanitarian assistance

A medical clinic with an operating room is being set up. 6,000 meals and water were distributed on 21 March. In addition, 1000 meals were provided by Saloum municipality.

• Contingency Planning

Local Egyptian authorities are very concerned about the possibility of a major influx of Libyans and requested the UN to support them in contingency preparations. UNHCR flew in an additional 98 metric tons of non-food items to be pre-positioned close to Saloum border.

ITALY

Arrivals to Lampedusa: The total number of new arrivals since mid-January increased to 13,669 people; since 18 March 2,225 people arrived. There are 4,779 migrants in Lampedusa, of which 1,950 are in reception centers. The reception conditions have deteriorated further due to the high number of new arrivals.

Resource Mobilization

UNHCR has revised its Supplementary Budget for the Libya Situation, which now has a total need of USD 65,700,000. So far, UNHCR has received contributions in the amount of USD 31,114,376; it is hence 47% funded. UNHCR continues to appeal to donors for cash contributions towards the UNHCR supplementary budget. In addition, IOM and UNHCR continue to seek support for in-kind air donations towards the joint IOM/UNHCR evacuation operation.

The Regional Inter-Agency Flash Appeal for the Libyan Crisis, requesting total of USD 160.3m for March-June, may be revised by the beginning of April. Currently the appeal is 62% funded. A delay in the revision of the Flash Appeal is due to the inability to access Libya and to perform a needs assessment.



A child prepares to cross the border with Tunisia, who, along with his family, has fled Libya.
/ UNHCR / A. Branthwaite March 2011

For further details please contact:

UNHCR Headquarters
94, Rue de Montbrillant
Geneva, 1202

Mr. Andrew Harper
Coordinator, Libya Emergency
Phone: +41 22 739 8105
Email: harper@unhcr.org

