



## Recent developments

### 8 January - Tunisian border

The **clashes between armed groups** loyal to the unity government and Libyan border officials in the town of Ras Ajdir on the Tunisian border on 8 January resulted in the closure of the border for one day.

### 15 January - Tripoli

Violent clashes erupted in Tripoli on January 15th, as armed brigades attacked Mitiga prison inside Mitiga Airport in Suq Aljumaa area. **All schools in the area were closed for one week, the roads surrounding the fights in the Beach Road, Suq Alumaa and Bab Tajoura areas were shut down.** Heavy weapons were heard in the area of clashes, some families were trapped inside the fight zone. The Airport of Mitiga was closed for one week.

### 24 January - Tripoli

The coastal road that links Tripoli to cities and districts in West Libya was closed for 10 days by Fursan Janzour brigade. The closure of the road affected tens of thousands of civilians who were not able to reach Tripoli to have access to services, mainly hospitals, go to work, or banks. Reportedly, many civilians had to take alternative unsafe roads to reach Tripoli.

### Since 2017 - Derna

The military **encirclement of Derna** continues **since July 2017**. More than **100,000 civilians** including IDPs, returnees and host communities **remain trapped** in the city and face increasingly deteriorating humanitarian conditions and protection concerns.

### Since January 2018 - Sebha

The ongoing tribal conflict in Sebha since January has left **40 civilians** dead or injured due to the indiscriminate shelling of civilian areas. An initial report suggested that more than **400 families have been displaced** and are in need of humanitarian assistance.

## 252 Libyan civilians killed or injured



52  
civilians  
killed



200  
civilians  
injured

### Caused by



Violence  
Acts of terrorism  
Armed/tribal conflict



Explosive  
remnants of war



Extrajudicial execution  
Unlawful killing  
Crimes

## 600 new families displaced (during the reporting period)

Approximately 600 families, mainly in Sebha due to the ongoing tribal clashes between Awlad Sulieman and the Tebu tribes



**165K IDPs**  
still displaced in Libya

(IOM DTM, Jan-Feb 2018)



**341K IDP returnees**  
returned to their areas of origin  
since the beginning of 2016

(IOM DTM, Jan-Feb 2018)

## 400K

Estimated people internally displaced as a result of the nationwide renewed conflict since 2014

Libya has experienced several waves of armed conflict and displacement movements since the 2011 Revolution between forces loyal to Colonel Muammar Gaddafi and those seeking to overthrow his Government. Libya has since suffered from political instability and clashes between rival armed groups, which escalated in 2014, triggering armed conflicts in Benghazi, Tripoli, Misrata and other cities, and causing widespread destruction of property, civilian deaths and massive displacement. An estimated 400,000 people (equivalent to 6 to 7% of the population of Libya) became internally displaced as a result of the nationwide renewed conflict from 2014 onwards and many still suffer the effects of this displacement.



### Restricted access

The protection activities of the international community have been conducted remotely from Tunis since 2015, thus complicating the operations, the engagement with the communities, engagement with local authorities, and the collection of more comprehensive information on the protection and legal issues around displacement and return. Operating in Libya remains hazardous and unpredictable. This is due to multiple factors, such as presence of mines and explosive devices, threats of abduction and kidnapping of international personnel, proliferation of armed groups with no clear chain of command, and continued conflict and violence.



### Causes of displacement

Displacement movements are still ongoing in Libya with multi-faceted causes:

- Tensions leading to **armed clashes in urban areas**
- **Lack of access to basic services**
- Conflicts related to **housing, land and property** (e.g. IDPs in Nafusa mountains)
- Political persecution
- Attacks based on **alleged terrorist or party affiliations**
- **Tribal and ethnic clashes**



### Human rights violations

Displacement nearly always generates conditions of severe hardship and suffering for the affected populations and can lead to **further human rights violations and discrimination as a direct result of the displacement.**

**Internally displaced persons** in Libya have many times suffered from human rights violations leading to their displacement as well as violations after displacement. Affected populations across Libya continue to face critical protection challenges, **including risk of death and injury due to indiscriminate use of weapons, restricted access to safety and freedom of movement, high contamination by explosive hazards affecting human security and conflict-related psychological trauma.**

The number of internally displaced persons with **mental health and psychosocial problems**, including severe **psychological distress**, has **increased substantially** as a result of the conflict and forced displacement which they have faced.



## LIBYANS CROSSING THE MEDITERRANEAN

An increasing number of Libyans are joining mixed migratory movements en route to Europe.

**1,234 Libyan nationals arrived in Italy in 2017 (+39% between 2016 & 2017)**

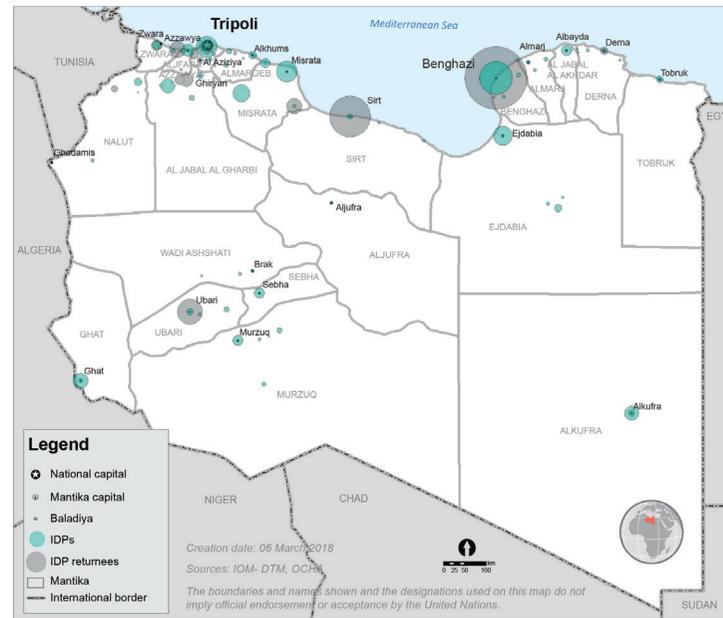
In 2017, **1,234 Libyan nationals** (including 216 unaccompanied and separated children) arrived in Italy by sea. Despite a 34% decrease in overall sea arrivals in Italy in 2017, **Libyans reaching Italian shores in 2017 increased by 39%, compared to 2016.**

**32 Libyan nationals rescued at sea on 15 February 2018 in Zwara**

During 2018, 32 Libyans including 8 women and 6 children, were rescued by Libyan coastguards off Zwara on 15 February.

### Reasons for leaving

- (a) Growing insecurity, including terrorist threats. Libyans reported that the security situation has worsened in the country, also for Libyan nationals (e.g. risk of kidnapping).
- (b) Lack of basic services and job opportunities;
- (c) Medical reasons and impossibility to receive treatment in Libya (this was mostly reported by families, almost all of which intended to travel to northern Europe, mainly Germany, to access better healthcare);
- (d) Intention to join family members in other European countries.



## IN FOCUS: RETURN OF TAWARGHA IDPs

On 26 December 2018, the Libyan Government of National Accord ratified an agreement that allowed the return of the displaced population of the city of Tawargha to their area of origin, to take effect and allow the return as of 1 February 2018.

The agreement was concluded after seven years of forced displacement of around 40,000 Tawarghan from their area of origin (the city of Tawargha).

On 1 February, all attempts by the Tawargha to return back failed without justified reasons, which forced them to stay in Qararat Al-Qataf area, some 40 km from Tawargha city

The protection sector carried out a rapid protection need assessment to summarize key protection concerns and come up with initial recommendations for immediate action.

The findings have been shared with the humanitarian community and the assessment found that **PHYSICAL SAFETY and LIFE-THREATENING GAPS IN ACCESS TO BASIC SERVICES, IN PARTICULAR HEALTH** are the key protection concerns highlighted by the IDPs. For more details, please see the assessment report.

## Displacement outside of camps

The majority of internally displaced persons in Libya are displaced in urban areas where their plight is less visible.

IDP communities in Libya are frequently living in substandard conditions in **unfinished or abandoned buildings**. Some are living in **rented accommodation, private or public sites** where they are forced to pay rent. Since their financial resources are often low or exhausted, they can become unable to pay rents, resulting in **eviction** and renewed displacement.

The main groups of IDPs reportedly at risk of eviction are:

- IDPs from Benghazi in Misrata
- IDPs from Kikkla in Tripoli
- IDPs from Warshafana in Tripoli

## The most vulnerable IDP groups in Libya

a) “Targeted” internally displaced persons (IDPs) unable to return to their homes due to resistance from neighbouring communities, military groups and local authorities.

- IDPs from Tawargha
- IDPs from Benghazi
- IDPs from Mashashya
- IDPs from Sirt
- IDPs from Warshafana
- IDPs from Tripoli
- IDPs from Kikkla
- Other small groups (e.g. Sabratha and South Libya)

b) “Non-targeted” IDPs who remain unthreatened but uprooted within their area of residence, pending reconstruction of war-damaged homes. The majority of these IDPs are located in Benghazi and Sirt.

## Likelihood of return/durable solutions for internally displaced persons

Return/durable solutions in Libya depend on the following key issues:

- Political solutions;
- Security in places of displacement;
- Housing, land and property disputes;
- *Reconciliation and transitional justice*;
- *Post-conflict reconstruction*;
- *Political transitions*;