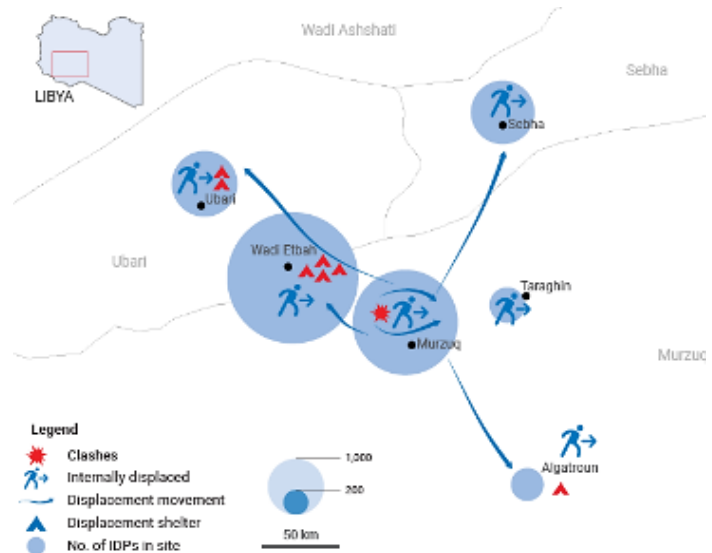


This report is produced by OCHA Libya in collaboration with the inter sector coordination group and the humanitarian partners.

Highlights

- At least 90 civilian people killed and more than 200 injured as a result of the violent clashes which escalated early this month, including the air strike that targeted the area on 4 August.
- Over 1,285 families (approx. 6,425 individuals) have been displaced inside Murzuq and to nearby areas. Some of them are currently hosted in collective shelters arranged by local authorities¹.
- Several houses and infrastructure were reportedly destroyed, amid continued electricity breakdown and limited telecommunication means.



Situation overview

Since early August, violent clashes escalated in Murzuq, area southern of Libya after several consecutive precision airstrikes impacted the area on 4 August. On 8 August, a mortar landed on a house hosting IDPs in the Bendalwah neighborhood resulting in injuries among four children between 2 and 7 years-old and the death of two siblings². The situation escalated since 11 August and fighting continued despite the declared truce that mostly held throughout the rest of the country. As of 14 August, the estimate number of civilians killed raised to at least 90 and more than 200 injured³.

Concerns are growing as humanitarian needs are rising as a result of the ongoing conflict. An estimated 6,426 individuals have been displaced to Sebha, Ubari, Wadi Etbah, Al Gatroun and safer neighborhoods within Murzuq municipality. Reportedly, some families are unable to leave the affected areas for fear of reprisals. Wadi Etbah has received the largest wave of displacement with around 4,050 IDPs mainly in urban areas including 450 IDPs across 7 shelters, while more than 1,000 people are displaced within Murzuq municipality. In addition, around 270 migrants from different West African nationalities were reportedly also displaced from Murzuq.

Preliminary findings indicated widespread disruption to markets (bakeries, food and NFIs) and infrastructure (water supply, sanitation and electricity) in Murzuq town. The entire area continues to experience electricity outage with very limited telecommunication means.

The situation remains highly insecure. The deteriorating security situation and shelling have damaged infrastructure over the past week and causing intermittent road closures on the three axes leading to Murzuq. The main Sebha-Murzuq road is reportedly blocked with possible access only through the western axis Sebha-Ubari-Wadi Etbah-Murzuq. Safe access to Murzuq remains a priority and OCHA continues to facilitate negotiations to secure humanitarian safe passage to allow the evacuation of trapped civilians and injured people and deliver assistance to the people in need; and calling for decreased tension among fighting parties. With no end in sight to the fighting in Murzuq area, humanitarian partners are concerned that needs will continue to grow and are gearing up to provide assistance as access becomes available.

Humanitarian Needs and Response

Priority humanitarian needs reported by local counterparts include medical supplies and health assistance, followed by food, WASH and non-food items (NFIs) (including tents, mattresses, blankets, solar lamps, cleaning materials and hygiene kits)⁴. Wadi Etbah municipality declared a state of emergency due to the lack of resources required to respond to the urgent humanitarian needs and the increasing number of displaced families. Sectors are further assessing the needs and coordinating sector-specific response.

Health

Health sector partners assessed local health facilities capacity to maintain essential service delivery as well as availability of medical personnel and supplies including trauma kits and medications for chronic conditions. Health response is ongoing, and the sector continues to coordinate, through its partners, to cover any emerging needs. However, there is a dire need to secure safe access of medical teams and supplies to provide the timely critical medical assistance required. Medical supplies, including war wounded kits, are available to treat the reported caseload.

The sector is working closely with the Ministry of Health (MoH) at all levels and partners on grounds to coordinate referrals outside the conflict zone where tens of injured have been evacuated to. WHO deployed an Emergency Medical Teams (EMT) to support Sabha Medical Center with 24 surgeries so far. WHO also boosted specialized mental health care with a psychiatrist who provided more than 124 sessions in Ubari and Sabha.

Food Security

Food security implementing partners are looking at the possibility to expedite the planned monthly food ration distribution in order to cater for the urgent food needs reported within Murzuq and the neighbouring municipalities hosting the displaced families. WFP and its partners confirmed availability of food parcels for more than three thousand families for two weeks in Murzuq (532), Wadi Etbah (206) and Sebha (2,426). Food distribution will be based on the latest DTM assessment under the inter-agency Rapid Response Mechanism (RRM). WFP is planning an emergency food distribution in Murzuq and Wadi Etbah while working on prepositioning food in Sebha as a contingency stock.

Shelter/Non-Food Items (NFI)

There are about 600 NFI family packages prepositioned in Sebha and ready for distribution. Humanitarian actors in the fields of shelter and NFI are planning to cover the needs of displaced families in Wadi Etbah, Ubari, Taraghin and Sebha. An extra 1,100 NFI family packages are to be prepositioned, through RRM activation, UNHCR and other agencies, to cover needs in collective shelters and host community and in case response needs to scale up. Shelter and NFI actors are also assessing possibilities for warehousing, as it remains presently challenging to secure such places in southern areas.

WASH

WASH sector partners are assessing the needs related to the report of Crisis Cell Committee in Wadi Etbah about serious challenge with water pumping due to power outage. There are 250 Hygiene Kits ready to be prepositioned to cover the needs in the affected areas.

1 IOM-DTM Murzuq Flash Update 14 August 2019.

2 Field Clinic in Bendalwah

3 Health Sector and MoH

4 IOM-DTM, Murzuq Flash Update 14 August 2019