

# Libya – Complex Emergency

SEPTEMBER 30, 2022

## SITUATION AT A GLANCE

<b>8.2</b> MILLION	<b>803,000</b>	<b>159,996</b>	<b>680,772</b>	<b>667,440</b>
Estimated Population of Libya	Estimated Number of People in Need of Humanitarian Assistance	Estimated Number of IDPs in Libya	Returnees in Libya	Migrants in Libya
<i>UN – September 2021</i>	<i>UN – December 2021</i>	<i>IOM – April 2022</i>	<i>IOM – April 2022</i>	<i>IOM – September 2022</i>

- Insecurity and access impediments continued to affect relief activities in Libya from January to June, while bureaucratic and administrative constraints decreased, the UN reports.
- Clashes in Tripoli in late August resulted in 23 civilian deaths and damage to health facilities.
- The number of IDPs in Libya continued to decrease from February to April as individuals continued to return to areas of origin, according to IOM.



<b>TOTAL U.S. GOVERNMENT HUMANITARIAN FUNDING</b> For the Libya Response in FY 2022	USAID/BHA <sup>1</sup>	\$4,745,600
	State/PRM <sup>2</sup>	\$24,741,150
<b>Total</b>		<b>\$29,480,750</b>

*For complete funding breakdown with partners, see detailed chart on page 5*

<sup>1</sup>USAID's Bureau for Humanitarian Assistance (USAID/BHA)  
<sup>2</sup>U.S. Department of State's Bureau of Population, Refugees, and Migration (State/PRM)

## KEY DEVELOPMENTS

### Conflict and Access Constraints Continue to Impede Relief Operations

While relief actors reported a decrease in the number of bureaucratic and administrative impediments affecting humanitarian activities in Libya from January through June, insecurity and access constraints continued to hinder response operations, the UN reports. Visa procurement delays for international staff decreased during the January-to-June period. However, strict financial regulations—including the introduction of a \$215 cash withdrawal per day limit for humanitarian organizations by Libyan banks imposed in February—continued to affect relief actors. As a result of the withdrawal limit, some humanitarian organizations were unable to access the cash required to implement programming and pay staff members, adversely affecting activities and relationships with local communities. Separately, unintended effects of European Union and Libyan anti-terrorism and anti-money laundering laws also caused unpredictable delays for relief organizations transferring funds into Libya during the period. As a result, an estimated \$1 million in humanitarian funding intended to support populations in need remained inaccessible to relief actors over the six-month period, the UN reports.

Conflict and access impediments also continued to affect relief actors during the first half of 2022. During this period, 18 relief actors reported 85 access-related incidents, including 20 incidents that restricted movement of humanitarian goods and personnel; 19 incidents that limited access to humanitarian services; 15 incidents that interfered with the implementation of humanitarian activities; and 11 incidents that involved violence against humanitarian personnel and facilities, among others. Many of these access impediments occurred in western Libya—which includes Libya’s capital city of Tripoli—due in part to relief actors’ large operational presence and ongoing hostilities in the region. Relief actors also reported authorities’ imposition of more strict and lengthy procedures to enter areas of eastern and southern Libya, resulting in the cancellation of at least five humanitarian flights and convoys during May and June, impeding critical movement of humanitarian staff and goods.

### Clashes in Tripoli Result in Civilian Deaths, Damage Health Facilities

Clashes between armed groups in Tripoli in late August resulted in the deaths of at least 23 civilians and injuries to 17 others, international media report. In response to the violence, UN Secretary-General António Guterres issued a statement on August 27 calling for the cessation of violence and the need to protect civilians. The UN World Health Organization (WHO) also condemned attacks against health care facilities in Libya during the late August escalation. As of August 29, eight attacks on health care facilities have occurred in Libya in 2022, WHO reports. In response to the clashes, USAID/BHA partners temporarily suspended activities in Tripoli, though operations had resumed as of September 1.

### Number of IDPs in Libya Continues to Decrease, Though Needs Persist

Nearly 160,000 individuals remained displaced across Libya during the February-to-April period, a nearly 50 percent decrease compared with the number of internally displaced persons (IDPs) across the country at the time of the October 2020 ceasefire, indicating that significant numbers of former IDPs have continued to return to areas of origin, according to an August report from the International Organization for Migration (IOM). As of April, the number of returnees across Libya increased to nearly 681,000 from approximately 673,600 returnees in January. Furthermore, 98 percent of returnees cited improved security conditions as an enabling factor for returns to places of origin. As of April, the Benghazi, Misrata, and Tripoli regions hosted the largest number of IDPs, while Benghazi, Al Jufrah, and Tripoli hosted the largest number of returnees, IOM reports. The top humanitarian priority needs for IDPs remain food, health services, and shelter according to IOM. For returnees, the UN agency

identified food, access to health services, and emergency relief commodities as the top priority needs.

Meanwhile, from May to June, IOM recorded nearly 667,500 migrants in Libya—an increase of nearly 17,700 migrants compared to the number recorded in April—a result of seasonal migration for labor opportunities and the increased migration to the country, continuing a trend since early 2021. Migrants in Libya cited access to affordable food, emergency relief commodities, housing, and services—such as health care and education—as priority humanitarian needs. However, as the number of migrants increase, Libyan authorities continuously apprehend and detain migrants due to inadequate legal protection for migrants and refugees. As of September 27, the Libyan Coast Guard, the General Administration of Coastal Security Migrants, and the Libyan Navy had intercepted and returned more than 16,730 asylum seekers, refugees, or migrants to Libya in 2022, State/PRM partner the Office of the UN High Commissioner for Refugees (UNHCR) reports. Migrants detained by Libyan authorities are frequently held in inhumane conditions in official and unofficial detention centers, where they lack access to basic services and humanitarian assistance.

## KEY FIGURES



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Mobile health facilities supported by USAID/BHA



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USG partners providing HCIMA support in Libya

## U.S. GOVERNMENT RESPONSE

### HEALTH

The U.S. Government (USG) addresses urgent health needs in Libya through support of UNHCR, WHO and two international non-governmental organization (NGO) partners that provide life-saving services in static and mobile health facilities. For example, USAID/BHA supports 16 mobile health teams providing vulnerable populations with access to health services across eastern, western, and southern Libya. USAID/BHA health partners also provide medicines, medical supplies, and equipment, as well as training and capacity building to community health workers and national institutions across Libya. Meanwhile, with State/PRM support, UNHCR and another implementing partner provide primary and emergency health care services to IDPs, refugees, and other vulnerable populations throughout Libya. State/PRM partners also provide equipment and infrastructure support to local health care facilities and distribute hygiene kits, soap, personal protective equipment, and other items to vulnerable populations.

### HUMANITARIAN COORDINATION, INFORMATION MANAGEMENT, AND ASSESSMENTS

With USAID/BHA support, the UN Office for the Coordination of Humanitarian Affairs (OCHA) and two international NGOs provide humanitarian coordination, information management, and assessments (HCIMA) services in Libya, ensuring that humanitarian response activities in the country are efficient, evidence-based, and targeted.

### PROTECTION

State/PRM partner UNHCR provides essential protection services for urban asylum seekers and refugees in Libya. Additionally, two USAID/BHA international NGO partners implement protection activities for vulnerable populations in Libya, including bolstering child protection services, delivering emergency case management and referral services for survivors of gender-



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USG partners supporting critical protection interventions

based violence, providing individual psychosocial support services, and conducting community awareness-raising sessions on protection risks and related issues. One USAID/BHA NGO partner provides vulnerable populations with specialized legal assistance and information on housing, land, and property rights to improve protection. Meanwhile, other USAID/BHA partners also operate child-friendly spaces and listening and counseling centers for women and girls to meet protection needs.



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USG partners supporting MPCA programming

### MULTIPURPOSE CASH ASSISTANCE

With funding to UNHCR and another implementing partner, State/PRM supports the distribution of multipurpose cash assistance (MPCA) to help IDPs, migrants, and other vulnerable households in Libya meet their basic needs. MPCA provides a flexible means for populations with access to markets to purchase food or other necessities. A USAID/BHA NGO partner also provides vulnerable returnee households in Tripoli with cash assistance to conduct shelter rehabilitations, ensuring their access to adequate, safe, and protective living conditions,

### CONTEXT IN BRIEF

- Armed conflict, civil unrest, and political instability have adversely affected Libya since 2011. Fluctuations in localized conflict—ongoing since 2014—and economic volatility, combined with Libya’s status as a major transit country for refugees and migrants with insufficient capacity to address their needs, have contributed to worsened humanitarian conditions in the country. Consequently, the UN estimates that approximately 803,000 people in Libya require humanitarian assistance in 2022.
- On November 4, 2021, U.S. Ambassador Richard B. Norland reissued a disaster declaration for Libya in FY 2022 due to the effects of the ongoing complex emergency and lack of local capacity to effectively address the humanitarian needs of conflict-affected populations.

### USG HUMANITARIAN FUNDING FOR THE LIBYA RESPONSE IN FY 2022<sup>1</sup>

IMPLEMENTING PARTNER	ACTIVITY	LOCATION	AMOUNT
<b>USAID/BHA</b>			
Implementing Partners	Health, Humanitarian Coordination, Information Management, and Assessments (HCIMA), Protection, Shelter and Settlements	Countrywide, Misrata, Sabha, Tripoli, Wadi Ash Shati	\$3,720,000
OCHA	HCIMA	Countrywide	\$100,000
WHO	Health	Ajdabiya, Benghazi, Al Butnan, Ghat, Al Hayaa, Al Jabal Al Akhdar, Al Jafarah, Al Jufrah, Al Kufrah, Al Marqab, Misratah, Murzuq, Sabha, Sirte, Tarhuna, Tobruk, Tripoli, Wadi Al Hayat, Al Wahat	\$90,000
	Program Support		\$25,600
<b>TOTAL USAID/BHA FUNDING</b>			<b>\$4,745,600</b>

STATE/PRM			
Implementing Partners (IPs)	Multi-Sector Assistance	Countrywide	\$16,800,000
IOM	Migration Response	Countrywide	\$1,341,150
UNHCR	Multi-Sector Assistance	Countrywide	\$6,600,000
<b>TOTAL STATE/PRM FUNDING</b>			<b>\$24,741,150</b>
<b>TOTAL USG HUMANITARIA FUNDING FOR THE LIBYA RESPONSE IN FY 2022</b>			<b>\$29,486,750</b>

<sup>1</sup>Year of funding indicates the date of commitment or obligation, not appropriation, of funds. Funding figures reflect publicly announced funding as of September 30,2022.

## PUBLIC DONATION INFORMATION

- The most effective way people can assist relief efforts is by making cash contributions to humanitarian organizations that are conducting relief operations. A list of humanitarian organizations that are accepting cash donations for disaster responses around the world can be found at [interaction.org](https://interaction.org).
- USAID encourages cash donations because they allow aid professionals to procure the exact items needed (often in the affected region); reduce the burden on scarce resources (such as transportation routes, staff time, and warehouse space); can be transferred very quickly and without transportation costs; support the economy of the disaster-stricken region; and ensure culturally, dietarily, and environmentally appropriate assistance.
- More information can be found at:
  - USAID Center for International Disaster Information: [cidi.org](https://cidi.org)
  - Information on relief activities of the humanitarian community can be found at [reliefweb.int](https://reliefweb.int).

USAID/BHA bulletins appear on the USAID website at [usaid.gov/humanitarian-assistance/where-we-work](https://www.usaid.gov/humanitarian-assistance/where-we-work)