

# LIBYA: MIGRATION & ASSISTANCE OVERVIEW



### **Regional Migrant Figures Update**

In 2016 (as of 21 September) 130,567 arrivals were recorded by sea to Italy through the Central Mediterranean route, whereby 5,997 migrants were recorded between 11 and 18 September, an 87% increase from the week before when 3,209 were reported. The main countries of origin are Nigeria, Eritrea and Gambia.

On the same route, as of 21 September, **2,917 deaths** were recorded in 2016, 34 so far in the month of September. The number of fatalities in 2016 remains higher than the same period last year (2,622 deaths were recorded along the Central Mediterranean route between January and September 2015).

The migrants continue making the perilous journey at great risk, travelling under precarious conditions and on ill-equipped boats, leaving them highly vulnerable to both arduous travel and exploitation of organized criminal networks along the way.

Source: MissingMigrants.iom.int

### Maritime Incidents Recorded in Libya, 2016

Month	Incidents	Rescued	# Bodies retrieved	Estimated missing
January	1	242	0	0
February	1	120	0	0
March	10	1,750	14	174
April	5	868	0	0
May	12	3,768	139	120
June	9	2,531	7	0
July	9	967	150	136
August	6	388	9	0
September	13	1948	9	0
Total to date	66	12,582	328	430

\*The number of migrants estimated missing is determined by the number of migrants reported to be on board the boats, the number rescued and the number of deaths reported, the remaining migrants unaccounted for are considered missing.

Sources: IOM, Libyan Coast Guard, DTM Implementing partners.

Disclaimer: DTM findings on migrants includes also persons who originate from refugee producing countries. Figures on Maritime Incidents in Libya are estimates based on initial reports at the time of each incident, and are regularly updated as more information becomes available.

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### **Community Stabilization**

On 19 - 20 September, IOM Libya brought together municipal and community leaders from Sabha in southern Libya, as well as Libyan

Ministry representatives, to discuss shared goals and priorities for IOM's community stabilization program. The two-day meeting in Tunis, Tunisia's capital, was opened by IOM Libya's Chief of Mission Othman Belbeisi, and was attended by nine representatives from the Sabha community, including the Mayor of Sabha, Mr. Hamed Rafeh Alhiali, and two Representatives of the Libyan Ministry of Local Governance, Mr. Abdulmajid Abugrara and Mr. Fathi Cherif.

"It is a significant achievement to have been able to bring together these community leaders and bridge the divide between different groups across Sabha as a first step in building mutual understanding, collaboration and trust; on this basis we will work together closely to strengthen dialogue and stability, and to implement projects that will serve the good of Sabha as a whole," emphasized IOM Libya's Program Manager Sandra Huang.



## **IOM Assists 160 Stranded Migrants** Return Home to Burkina Faso

On 20 September, IOM Libya assisted 160 stranded Burkinabe migrants, including 13 women, 4 infants and 9 children, to return home to Burkina Faso from Libya.

The repatriation, in close cooperation with the Libyan authorities, the Burkina Faso Embassy in Tripoli and the IOM office in Burkina Faso, was on board a charter flight that departed Tripoli's Mitiga Airport and arrived in Ouagadougou the same afternoon. Before departure, all migrants stayed overnight at a shelter organized by the Burkinabe embassy in Tripoli, where IOM Libya staff provided food, drinks and hygiene kits. A mobile patrol from the Tripoli Security Committee escorted the buses to Mitiga airport.

Most of migrants have told IOM staff that they arrived to Libya using the same route Burkina Faso - Niger - Al Qatrun - Sabha - Tripoli and payed smugglers between USD 800 - 2000. The journey took between two weeks to one month, during which they were forced to obtain food and water individually.

During their stay in Libya, migrants reported to have faced hard conditions just to survive, not only because of the lack of paying jobs, but mainly due to widespread insecurity and crime. Being constantly at risk of being robbed or taken hostage for ransom was the hardest part, many said. Aniss, a 21- year old migrant, told IOM:

"I arrived to Libya one year ago, paying smugglers USD 500 in Niger to take me to Sabha, I would go daily, sunrise to sunset, to the station seeking work, getting hard labor with low wages to obtain food and shelter only. I would pay 40 - 50 Libyan Dinars if stopped at a check point, my friend Usama didn't have cash so they searched him and took his phone."



### Distribution

Between 9 - 20 September, non-food items and hygiene kits were distributed, with the support of IOM Libya's implementing partners Assalam Organization, Multakana centre, and the Libyan Red Crescent, to a total of 2,022 vulnerable migrants across Libya.

- On 9 September: 700 migrants in Bani Waled Detention
- On 10 September: 275 migrants in Abu Salim Detention Centre
- On 19 September: 150 migrants in Shahat Detention Centre
- On 20 September: 650 migrants in Shuhada' Al Nasr
- On 22 September: 237 migrants at Misratah detention centre and in Al Khums for 10 migrants.



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