



Facilitating the Migration of Egyptian and Tunisian Health Professionals to Libya

IOM, the Tunisian Red Crescent and the Arab Medical Union work together to support Libya's health sector

23rd October – 22 Egyptian doctors have been selected and 61 Tunisian nurses have been identified for immediate deployment in Libya's health sector as part of IOM's work to strengthen capacities and mechanisms to address labour market gaps in Libya, where the mass exodus of migrant workers during the 2011 conflict has affected several essential services.

The ongoing work to place Tunisian and Egyptian health professionals in Libya follows the signing of a Memorandum of Understanding (MoU) delineating and formalizing the facilitation and temporarily deployment of up to 100 Doctors and Nurses to Libya.

IOM has been working in partnership with the Libyan Ministries of Labour and Ministry of Health to assess the human resources gap in the health sector. This assessment confirmed that experienced medical professionals are urgently needed in Sabha, Murzuk and Nalut to address health needs in specialized medical fields, including surgery, neurology, cardiology, radiology, orthopaedics, urology, obstetrics and paediatrics.

IOM Cairo has entered into agreement with the Arab Medical Union (AMU) in Egypt while IOM Tunis entered into agreement with the Tunisian Red Crescent (TRC) to deploy up to 50 Doctors and 50 Nurses to Libya, respectively. IOM will provide pre-departure Migration health training and IOM Libya will provide post-arrival briefings to all Doctors and Nurses.

It is anticipated that these highly-skilled professionals will help address immediate health care needs, as well



MurzuK Hospital, Libya
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as assume roles as mentors, in turn strengthening local capacities in their respective specialist areas. Building and enhancing the capacity of health professionals through on-the-job coaching and mentoring ensures the programme's sustainability.

Prior to the conflict's onset, there were approximately 2.5 million migrant workers in Libya and the conflict generated a large migration crisis as hundreds of thousands of migrants seeking to escape the violence fled across Libya's borders. Their mass exodus left vast gaps in Libya's labour market and disrupted critical services and national capacities in important sectors, including, but not limited to health, education, and construction. Assessing and addressing these gaps is critical to Libya's social and economic recovery.

Funded by the European Union (EU) and implemented by IOM, the project "Stabilizing at-risk communities and enhancing migration management to enable smooth transitions in Egypt, Tunisia and Libya" (START) has been designed to address the challenges outlined above. Strengthening capacities and mechanisms to address labour market gaps through human capital development and regular migration is critical to further advancing vital progress in Libya service provision sectors.

Under this 36-month project, IOM is supporting the Libyan Government to review and strengthen migration-related policies and legislation and will assist all three target countries to manage migration and uphold the human rights of migrants.

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