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International Organization for Migration
The UN Migration Agency

NEWSLETTER

IOM LIBYA UPDATE



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IOM Continues to Provide Emergency Support to Thousands of Migrants Affected by Sabratha Conflict

In the aftermath of weeks of conflict in the Libyan coastal city of Sabratha, IOM is providing support to more than 14,000 migrants, previously held in numerous informal detention centres and camps and now transferred to Zwara and an assembly point in Sabratha.

MARITIME UPDATE

- On 30 September, 226 migrants (202 men, 20 women and four children) were rescued or intercepted off Az Zawiyah.
- On 2 October, 34 migrants including six women were rescued or intercepted off Tripoli. Nine days later, on 11 October, 78 migrants including 20 women and eight children, were rescued or intercepted off Az Zawiyah's Mesfat. On the same day, another 85 migrants, 12 of which are minors, were rescued off Tripoli coast.
- So far in 2017, 18,127 migrants have been rescued or intercepted in Libyan waters.

MIGRATION NEWS

[October brings Italy highest flows of migrants from Libya](#) (Al Monitor)

[Sudanese migrants return home from Libya](#) (Libya Observer)

[U.N. assisting thousands of migrants in Libyan smuggling hub](#) (Reuters)

Since the outbreak of the crisis in recent weeks, more than 9,500 migrants have received core relief packages, which include mattresses, blankets, pillows and hygiene kits at six separate locations and more than 160,000 meals (including water and juice) have been provided in Zwara and Sabratha. Diapers have been provided for 70 children, baby clothes for 4 newborn children and baby milk for 40 infants whose mothers are unable to breastfeed at Dahman assembly point. IOM has also responded to the vast health needs and conducted 2,198 medical interventions 1,534 at Sabratha assembly point and 664 at Zwara DC). 75% were men between 21 to 45 years old. Furthermore, IOM through its implementing partners Psychosocial Support provided assistance through group and individual sessions to 650 migrants. Phone calls and family tracing have also been provided for 348 unaccompanied migrant children (UMCs).

In addition, 7,359 identified migrants have requested IOM's assistance to return to their countries of origin. As of October 19, a total of 4,410 migrants have been provided with consular support, via both field consular visits and online consular sessions. The processing and issuance of travel documents is ongoing and is expected to be completed by middle of November. Meanwhile, 15 charter flights have been scheduled to facilitate the voluntary return of 2,933 migrants

Sabratha is approximately 80 kilometres west of Tripoli and is one of the main departure points for migrant boats attempting to make the perilous journey across the Mediterranean Sea to Europe.

586 stranded migrants receive voluntary humanitarian return assistance home



Throughout the past two weeks, a total of 586 migrants, previously stranded in Libya, have received assistance in returning to their countries of origin via IOM's Voluntary Humanitarian Return Programme. Among the returnees, 82 were women and 35 were children out of which 7 were Unaccompanied Minor Children. So far in 2017, 8,819 stranded migrants have received return assistance home.

The voluntary journeys were organized through both charter and commercial flights that departed from Tripoli Mitiga International airport towards 11

[Over 8,000 illegal migrants repatriated from Libya this year: IOM](#) (XinhuaNet)

[Italian minister defends methods that led to 87% drop in migrants from Libya](#) (The Guardian)



For the latest Mediterranean Update data on arrivals and fatalities please visit: <http://migration.iom.int/europe> #MigrationEurope



A global database tracking data on deceased and missing migrants along migratory routes. Visit MissingMigrants.iom.int #MissingMigrants

STORIES OF MIGRANTS



Growing up in a poor family thirteen-year-old Jonathan started to fantasize about bringing his family to Italy, he dreamt of becoming a professional football player, earn a lot of money and bring his family to Europe. "I would like to play for Juventus," he told IOM.*

When an opportunity to leave for Europe appeared, Jonathan took it, and began his around 7,000 kilometer journey, from Senegal, through

different destinations, out of which Sudan, Mali, Nigeria, Bangladesh and Ghana were the countries with the most significant number of returnees.

The migrants who were previously held inside detention centers like Trig al Seka and Shahat as well as urban locations such as Tripoli, Misrata and Benghazi, will all benefit from reintegration assistance once they are back home. As part of its regular pre-departure assistance, IOM provided the migrants with medical checkups to ensure they are fit to travel and non-food items packs comprising clothes and footwear were distributed to guarantee the comfort and dignity of the migrants' voluntary journey back home.

IOM steps up support in Tajoura detention centre



IOM has met with the head of the Directorate for Combating Irregular Migration (DCIM) Mohamed Beshir as well as senior officers at Tajoura detention centre to discuss future activities, including improving the living conditions of the migrants, rehabilitation of the centre and capacity building training for the staff, which all began following the meeting including desalination of the water system and WASH rehabilitation. IOM has also visited Al Hmdiya disembarkation point to monitor the progress of the registration unit and prepare clear terms of reference (TOR) for staff at the site. Communication equipment has been installed in three different locations inside the disembarkation point.

IOM has also conducted fumigation assistance for Al Kifah boat, based on requests from the Libyan Coast Guard.

Humanitarian direct assistance provided to displaced Libyans

Mali, Burkina Faso, Niger and lastly, from southern to northern Libya.

Jonathan payed around 900 US dollar and was captured three times along the migratory route.

In the detention centre, Jonathan tells IOM how he endured torture and ill treatment along the perilous road through the African continent. In southern Libya, Jonathan was kidnapped by smugglers and was only released after his relative and friend managed to pay the criminal group 550 US dollar.

The thirteen-year-old then travelled to Tripoli, where he started to work as a cleaner in order to raise the 500 LYD that was required to receive a seat in one of the inflatable rubber dinghies that these days depart on a regular basis from the Libyan coast packed with migrants wishing to reach Europe for a better life. But once again Jonathan was captured.

"My relatives had to send 300 USD and they released me," he explained to IOM.

After two failed attempts on one of the world's most dangerous routes across the Mediterranean Sea, Jonathan's journey ended, like for so many others, in one of the Libyan capital's detention centres.

In thirteen of the current 29 government-led detention centres there are around 140 unaccompanied minors, according to IOM Libya's Displacement Tracking Matrix's detention centre mapping tool.

"Detention centre is not a place for children," emphasized IOM Libya's Protection Officer. "We work closely with the Libyan authorities in trying to find alternative solutions to detention and efficiently assist those wishing to return home." Whilst trying to minimize the time spent in detention, IOM also supports the children with recreational activities and psychosocial first aid.

Jonathan is one of the around 120 minors that IOM Libya has assisted to return home. Today he is reunited with his relatives at home, where he continues to dream about becoming a professional football player.

**Jonathan is not the migrant's real name*

SECOND CHANCES: "IT WILL TAKE TWO HOURS."



820 displaced Libyan families in Bani Walid and Tarhuna received non-food items including mattresses and hygiene kits.

Migrants in southern Libya receive health support



Medical care has been provided to 133 migrants inside detention centres in Libya. The most common diseases treated included respiratory and urinary tract infections and skin diseases. Pregnant women and infants were also assisted.

Following a rescue at sea on 30 September, 350 migrants, including women and children, have received medical checkups and were later transferred to Az Zawiyah's Shuhada Al Nasr detention centre. In-patient migrants also received assistance, a 28 year old Gambian migrant, who was shot in the leg, was transferred to the clinic for surgical intervention. IOM's health unit has also conducted an anti-scabies campaign that targeted 1,564 migrants (1,260 men, 258 women and 45 minors). Migrants were examined and treated using sulphur soap, bezyl benzoate lotion, antihistamines and fluidic acid ointment. Following the operation, NFIs were distributed and a fumigation campaign in all premises of the detention center took place. In addition, IOM, with the help of local partners, worked to meet the needs of 2,820 gathered in a Sabha hangar following the anti-ISIL operation taking place in the city. 122 migrants were assisted and on-site care was provided for 75 migrants. Among the patients assisted were 10 urgent cases, mainly from Somalia, Nigeria and Eritrea, related to deliver care, gun shots, eye trauma and diabetics. 2,170 migrants have received different medical care throughout this period.



Before leaving Libyan soil on a flimsy rubber dinghy, Moses was informed that in two hours they would be rescued and taken to Europe. "But it didn't," he added.

Moses, a father of seven, from an African country, stands in the courtyard of a detention centre in Tripoli, where he has ended up after more than a year in Libya. He left his wife with their four other children to earn money for the family and worked in southern Libya.

But staying with the three boys was no longer an option, so when his employer asked if he had some money and wanted to go to Subratah and Europe, Moses saw no other option but to go ahead "It was never my intention to go to Europe, not when I arrived to Libya," he explains, but as his journey became more and more dangerous, Italy seemed to move closer and closer. Two hours away close.

In the western coastal city of Subratah, Moses paid and ended up on a rubber boat with about 150 other passengers from different African countries. Moses demonstrates how he sat with his children around him, his arms around their shoulders. "Packed like sardines," he says.

But two hours turned into three, turned into four and five and six hours. As the minutes ticked away the boat drifted, without a motor or a compass the passengers had little control over their fates. The "pusher men" take a speed boat or a scooter and leave the migrant boat at sea. Moses started to panic. He estimates that they stayed at sea for around six hours until they saw a boat with a Libyan flag. I ask Moses, were you disappointed it was the Libyans and not the Italians? No, he says, at that time he was just glad they were still alive. We work for a better future for our children, that is what it is all about, says Moses who has now chosen to return home through IOM's return assistance programme. As we wait for the buses to begin to transfer those migrants that have signed up for the assistance through Mitiga airport, Moses speaks of the boys. With a little glimmer of hope lightening in his eyes he tells me about the characters of his three sons. He puts his hand on the youngest head, this one is a clever one, he asks a lot of questions, Moses says with a smile, he will become a lawyer, he concludes. The other two would like to become a soldier and police, they are strong, Moses says and bursts out in laughter.

At the airport the five-year-old, Moses' youngest son stands by the window and watches the plane

Victims of trafficking receive assistance

Two victims of trafficking, from Nigeria and currently at Tajoura detention centre received vulnerability assessment. Four minors have received vulnerability assessments and family tracing assistance. Another victim of kidnapping, in Az Zawiyah, also received vulnerability assessment.

Two homeless women from Eritrea, who had to spend a night at a local mosque due to lack of shelter, received housing help by IOM. During a visit to Tajoura detention centre on 4 October, 25 men, 18 women and five children received psychosocial support. IOM's protection unit continues to provide the needed assistance for previous cases.

IOM identifies 400,445 migrants in Libya



Round 12 DTM Libya's Mobility Tracking identified 400,445 migrants across all 22 regions in Libya. Migrants were identified in 99 baladiyas and 519 muhallas. The three main regions where migrants were recorded as present were Misrata (19%), Tripoli (16%) and Almageb (10%). [For the full report](#) and the [Key Findings](#)

DTM Libya has also released its Detention Centre Profile Generator for Azzawya Abu Issa, Benghazi al Wafiah, Surman Men, Tobruk, Trig al Matar, Trig al Seka and Zwara. The displayed information concerns the detention centre, demographics and shelter, vulnerable populations, main nationalities present, and sectorial data (health, WASH, food, protection, site facility information, access to information and information sources). [More information here](#)

IOM and partners bring together youth in Southern Libya for Debate Forum

that is about to bring him back to his mother and siblings.

But Moses leaves Libya with a bittersweet feeling, he is well aware that life back home will not be easy, they left for a reason and now they are in debt. But the most important is family, how you bring up your children will shape them, he says, shapes their future.

**For safety reasons, Moses is not the migrant's real name*

PUBLICATIONS & REPORTS

Voluntary Humanitarian Return and Reintegration Support



IDP & Returnee Report



Migrant Report





IOM's community stabilization component has organized a four day (8-12 October) debate forum for 48 participants from Sabha that discussed 24 different topics including challenges facing community peace and the power of dialogue in creating social cohesion. The Sabha debate club opened the debates, which was attended by Sabha municipality representatives, local associations and activists. Local media channels also covered the event. Amina Nouri from the organizing committee explained "the importance of similar events in strengthening the culture of dialogue and acceptance amongst the different social group, starting with young people"

IOM has also provided, through the organization Moomken, a digital media training for 18 beneficiaries, 9 men and 9 women from Sabha with the aim to empower youth engagement and use of social media platforms to spread social cohesion and dialogue.

In addition, two of Sabha's primary health care units, Al Tayouri and Al Karama, have been rehabilitated and will resume medical assistance. Furthermore, six water wells in Sabha have been rehabilitated and handed over to the Water and Waste Company in Sabha with the presence of the Sabha Mayor, heads of the concerned Mahallas as well as members of the Community Management Committee.

DTM Libya Event Tracker



Maritime Update



LATEST PRESS RELEASES

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