



IOM • OIM

# LIBYA: HUMANITARIAN SUPPORT TO MIGRANTS AND IDPS

INTERNATIONAL ORGANIZATION FOR MIGRATION

SITUATION REPORT • MAY 2016



## Highlights

NFI distribution at Al Zawya Detention Centre on 28 May 2016. © Staco, IOM 2016

■ 171 Senegalese migrants, including one medical case, were repatriated to Senegal. Of the group, 161 had spent several months in detention centres.

■ On 24-25 May, IOM, together with UNHCR, coordinated a technical workshop and coordination meeting for Libyan partners, including the coastguards, on saving lives at sea.

■ Between 22 and 28 May, IOM helped some 3,600 migrants and refugees intercepted at sea by Libyan authorities in rescue operations near Al Zawya and Sabratha.

■ IOM Libya launched a Twitter account, see @IOM\_Libya.

## Situation Overview

As the Libyan crisis continues, May has seen unrest in Tripoli as a result of the ongoing liquidity crisis. An influx of Russia printed Libyan Dinars, resulting in two currencies, has raised concern regarding the country's unity. Furthermore, clashes and military operations against the Islamic State has led to a large number of displaced people, particularly in Sirte, stretching the already strained capacity of local communities.



In addition, the warmer weather has contributed to a radical increase in the number of maritime incidents off Libyan coasts, making May the deadliest month to date this year, with 1,086 migrants reported as dead or missing as of 30 May. Between 22 and 28 May alone, over 3,600 migrants were rescued and brought back to shore in Libya. The migrants were transferred to detention centres in Al Zawya, Abu Eissa and Shuhada' Al Nasr, which are currently severely over capacity. The lack of capacity extends not only to the provision of services and assistance to migrants, but also to the proper management of the bodies retrieved from the shipwrecks. The Libyan Red Crescent (LRC) is unable to meet the demand, especially dead body management (transportation, storage, burial) and LRC Al Zawya branch has announced the suspension of all its services related to migrants.

IOM Libya's Chief of Mission Othman Belbeisi visited the Abu Saleem Detention Centre on 19 May, during an inter-agency mission led by SRSG for Libya Martin Kobler. The visit provided the officials with an opportunity to witness the conditions in which irregular migrants are being held. In this context, the IOM CoM reiterate the need for alternatives to detention and for a comprehensive migration strategy for Libya.

## CONTACTS

Othman BELBEISI

+216 29 600 389

✉ [obelbeisi@iom.int](mailto:obelbeisi@iom.int)

🌐 <http://www.iom.int>

## NFI and Shelter

**NFI** In the end of April and first days of May, IOM started the distribution of Non-Food Items (NFI) and Hygiene Kits (HK) to migrants in urban areas; around 700 migrants from different locations in Tripoli (Salah Eldeen, Al-Befee, and Al-Saraj) received the items through IOM partner STACO.

According to the massive flows of IDPs from Sirte, IOM has received a request from the local council and NGOs in Sirte to assist the new arrival IDPs with NFIs and HKs and on 9 May, IOM responded to the humanitarian requests and provided NFIs (Mattresses, Blanket and Pillow) and HKs to 250 families in Bani Walid area with Al-Salam NGOs, and, in coordination with LRC, IOM distributed 600 HKs to Sirte IDPs in Bani Walid 11 May 2016.

Based on the rapid need assessment outcomes and rescue at sea operations in different location all over Libya, IOM, in coordination with its partners, distributed NFIs and HK to Migrants in Salah Eldeen centre, 150 migrants received NFIs and HK in coordination with DRC. In al-Nasir detention centre, 569 migrants received NFIs and HKs, in Abu Issa Centre 200 migrants received the same items, on May 29, in coordination with IOM partner STACO.

## Humanitarian Repatriation

On 19 May, IOM, through the Provision of Humanitarian Repatriation and Reintegration Project, facilitated the return of 171 Senegalese migrants, including 1 medical case, to their home. This repatriation – done in close cooperation with Libyan authorities, Senegal’s Embassy in Tripoli, the IOM office in Senegal and Algeria – was carried out by a charter flight, which departed from Tripoli’s Mitiga Airport and arrived in Dakar, Senegal. Before the departure, IOM provided the migrants with clothes, shoes, underwear and hygiene kits.

Soumaila, a young migrant, told IOM:

*“I spent more than one month in an extremely difficult journey that cost me Euro 2,450 from Senegal to Libya via Mali and Algeria. During my stay in Tripoli I worked in several jobs to support myself and earn some money that would allow me to cross the Mediterranean. However, I was arrested by the police, lost my savings and was imprisoned for two months until IOM’s help arrived.”*

Upon return in Senegal, all migrants were supported with an onward transportation grant to facilitate transportation to their final destinations.

More information can be found at:  
<http://www.iom.int/news/iom-helps-171-stranded-senegalese-migrants-return-home-libya>



Senegalese returnees arriving in Dakar, Senegal.  
Photo: © IOM 2016

The registration for this repatriation operation was the result of the visits of eight west African Embassies in Libya, organized by IOM on 2-3 May, to the Al Garabulli detention center. The center is currently holding 315 West African nationals. The aim of the visit was for the diplomats to see the conditions in which their nationals are being held and explore possible means for their release, as well as to identify those interested in voluntary humanitarian repatriation. Some 202 of the 315 held in Al Garabulli expressed an interest in voluntary return to their countries of origin.

More information can be found at:

<http://www.iom.int/news/iom-organizes-visits-libyan-detention-centres-west-african-diplomats>

## Capacity Building

On 19-20 May, IOM, in particular the DTM team, held a two-day workshop with its local implementing partners in Tunis. The workshop’s objective was to improve coordination and harmonize approaches of data collection on the displaced and migrant populations in Libya, using DTM specific methodology.

IOM Libya also funded and organized a one-day meeting on 10 May, which brought together the Libyan Directorate for Combating Illegal Migration (DCIM), representatives from the East and West, as well as the Migrants in Detention Working Group (MDWG): IOM, UNHCR, DRC, UNSMIL, IMC and the Italian Council for Refugees. The meeting was organized to debate the situation of the migrants in Detention Centers and the challenges associated with MDWG agency access to detention centers, security, DCIM provision of escorts for aid workers in some parts of the country and humanitarian repatriation of detained migrants and alternatives to detention.

On 24-25 May, IOM coordinated, together with UNHCR, a technical workshop on saving lives at sea in Libya for 28 participants from the Libyan Ministry of Defence and Interior, the Border Directorate, the Directorate for Combating Illegal Migration, International Medical Corps and the Libyan Red Crescent. The third of its kind, the workshop was organized



Participants at the IOM, UNHCR technical workshop on saving lives at sea in Libya  
Photo: © IOM 2016

within the framework of the established Technical Working Group and Contact Group on Saving Lives at Sea, which aims to ensure that timely, effective and appropriate life-saving operations, including disembarkation of migrants from smuggling vessels, are carried out in full respect of human rights of migrants and refugees. The workshop united efforts from both sides of the Mediterranean— IOM Libya and IOM Italy—to improve the means and solutions to stop the flow of migration from Africa to Europe.

More information can be found at:

<https://www.iom.int/news/iom-unhcr-hold-technical-workshop-saving-lives-sea-libya>



## Displacement Tracking Matrix (DTM)

DTM Libya published the Round 3 Package, which includes latest news, links and information on the DTM Libya project in one place. The package offers access to DTM Libya's [Interactive Dashboard](#), [Story Map](#),

Round 3 Initial Findings Report, [Round 3 Report](#), Full dataset, and [latest news](#).

Round 3 recorded 417,123 individuals (83,212 households) as internally displaced. The IDPs are recorded as primarily originating from Benghazi, Sirte and Tawergha. The greatest number of IDPs are identified as residing in Benghazi, Ajdabiya, Al Bayda, Abu Saleem, Bani Waled, Alzintan and Tobruk and 49.4% are identified as male and 50.6% as female. In addition, 149,160 individuals (30,348 households) are identified as having returned to their area of origin.



DTM Libya also published its Migration Update and Assistance Overview for the period of 3-16 May providing snapshot information on the number of shipwrecks and/or boats rescued off the Libyan coast, IOM Libya's DTM's latest figures, IOM's latest regional findings and IOM assistance delivery. In addition, DTM Libya closed its pilot stage of Flow Monitoring and is currently undertaking the first round of data collection.

DTM will officially be launching the Flow Monitoring module in mid-July, surveying migrants across 10 transit points in Libya. The Round 4 initial findings to be released in the first week of June.

## IOM operations are supported by:

