



The most recent coordination meeting with local NGOs and IOM partner organizations, discussing ways to enhance NFI distribution and how to reach also people in need in those areas within Libya, difficult to access...

OVERVIEW

With armed conflicts in different parts of Libya still ongoing, and a political solution being as far away as ever before, there is still a high number of migrants trapped inside Libya, of which many might choose take onto a risky journey towards Europe across the Mediterranean Sea.

By 27 April 2015 IOM has reported 25,703 migrants arrived Italy shores since the beginning of this year, with the main nationalities being sub-Saharan Africans, Eritreans, Syrians, Somalis and Ethiopians, including women and children. For many of them their original plan when leaving their home country was to reach Europe directly, others are now fleeing Libya as soon as they realised that it has become too dangerous to stay any longer, particularly for labour migrants from West Africa.

What is most striking between this year and last year is the rate of death, with some 1,780 deaths just within the first 4 months of this year – including migrants in the waters off Tunisia and Greece, as well as Libya – compared to last year's total of 96 migrant deaths on the Mediterranean through the entire month of April.

HIGHLIGHTS

Repatriation of **793 migrants** of 18 different nationalities accomplished, most of them either via Tunisia or directly out of Tripoli.

More than **2900 IDP families and 2,600 migrants** have benefitted from the distribution of NFIs and hygiene kits in different parts of Libya, including those accommodated migrant detention centres.

An estimated number of **570 migrants** rescued at sea by the **Libyan Coast Guard** during last week, received immediate medical assistance, as well as NFIs and hygiene kits upon reception by DCIM in a concerted effort by IOM, UNHCR and IMC.

This also included Psychosocial-Support for those traumatized by the experiences they have made during the rescue operation, as well as when on their way from escaping a conflict and to find a safe haven for themselves or their families.

IOM RESPONSE

NFI NON-FOOD-ITEMS

During the second half of April, IOM distributed NFI and Hygiene kits to migrants in A-Zawyah, Zleitin, Sorman and Musrata Retention Centres. Another Coordination Meeting was organized on 30 April 2015, as part of a series of workshops and coordination meetings to be organized under an ECHO funded project. These exchange of information shall allow IOM to be regularly updated on the situation inside Libya as regards stranded migrants and IDPs, which will in turn be used to optimize and further streamline the assistance provided to those communities in certain parts of the country. IOM is also further responding to regular calls by Libyan authorities, namely the Coast Guards and DCIM, for support of migrants who have been rescued at sea close to the Libyan shores.

At least 211 migrants have been rescued by the Libyan Coast Guard when their vessel shipwrecked near the Libyan coast, when they were on the way to Italy after some of the migrants were injured by an explosion of a gas tank in one of the “connection houses” in Libya. Among the rescued migrants were 46 females and 12 children. In a well-concerted effort by IOM, IMC, and Multakana Psychosocial centre, initial medical assistance and very much needed food, NFIs and hygiene kits have been provided before admitting them to DCIM centres.

EVACUATION

As Libya is still facing instability and violence, IOM Libya continues to work together with foreign embassies and airlines to facilitate the evacuations and return of further migrants from sub-Saharan Africa. The continued military attacks on airport infrastructure in Tripoli, but also in Misrata and Benghazi have aggravated the situation related to the availability of commercial airlines offering flights to key destinations. Despite all these obstacles and challenges encountered by IOM staff working on the evacuation and repatriation of migrants, they managed to organize the safe return of 793 migrants of 18 different nationalities to reach a safe haven either in their country of origin, or their new home somewhere else.

Recently IOM received a request from Ethiopian Government to evacuate more than 170 of its citizens who are stranded inside Libya and are willing to return back to their home country. IOM, with the support of ICRC/LRC and in coordination with the Embassies of Sudan, Ethiopia, Senegal, Gambia and others, is working on taking pictures and personal data from migrants for the issuance of travel documents, in order to be able to organize their flights out of Libya. Moreover, IOM is further evaluating the possibility to organize further charter flights departing from Tunisia, in order to overcome the general shortage of seats available on key routes, but still struggles with providing those migrants with valid travel documents before travel arrangements can be done.



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