

July 2021

Situation Update

Key figures:

245,483 Libyans internally displaced (IDPs)¹

623,215 returned IDPs¹

21,317 IDPs assisted with cash in 2020²

18,695 IDPs assisted with non-food items in 2020 (33,748 in 2019)

3,164 IDP households received assistance during 2020/21 Winter distribution campaign

¹ Data IOM-DTM February 2021

² The 2020 cash programme continued till May 2021.

Between April 2019 until June 2020 some 200,000 Libyans were displaced due to conflict in Tripoli. Thousands of civilians had to flee their houses for safer areas in Tripoli, the Nafusa Mountains or cities along the coast. Most internally displaced persons (IDPs) were hosted by relatives and friends while others stayed in collective shelters. As a result of the ceasefire in October 2020 there has been a marked decrease in IDP numbers, but while thousands of people have returned home, others are unable to do so, due to damaged/destroyed properties, lack of basic services and the presence of booby traps, including improvised explosive devices, and landmines.

Civilians across Libya, especially IDPs and returnees, continue to face critical protection challenges. Access to medical healthcare, medicines, and essential goods and services, including shelter, water and sanitation, are the most critical needs. Hundreds of thousands of people living in major cities are at high risk of serious injury due to explosive remnants of war and unexploded ordnance. The most vulnerable people have few or no coping mechanisms to protect and support themselves. Access to essential household goods such as food has been reduced due to insecurity, inflation and limited cash availability.

While many have spontaneously returned to their homes, other IDP communities are unable or unwilling to return due to the destruction of their homes, insecurity and the lack of proper resources. For example, more than 40,000 IDPs from the Tawergha community have been displaced since August 2011.

UNHCR Response

Overall, UNHCR's IDP response strategy has as its main objective to promote access to rights, basic services and solutions for IDPs throughout Libya. As the lead agency for the protection of IDPs, UNHCR is increasing its capacity and expanding its partnerships in Libya in order to conduct protection monitoring, identify needs and guide effective responses. UNHCR initiatives aim at increasing social cohesion and mitigating conflict between IDPs and host communities through the implementation of community assistance projects. As such, in 2020/1, UNHCR supported IDPs, returnees, and host communities by implementing 59 quick-impact projects (QIPs) throughout Libya with the active participation of host communities and IDPs, and in consultation with national and local authorities. Most recently, in May 2021, UNHCR and DRC conducted the **handover** of Qawmia Al-Arabiya school and Ghout Al Shaal Health Centre QIPs. The two QIPs are located in the municipality of Hay Al Anadalous, with the aim of supporting the host community, IDPs, as well as a number of refugees. The conducted activities included WASH and small-scale rehabilitation works made towards the building.

UNHCR continues to provide humanitarian assistance to IDPs and returnees such as non-food items (NFIs) and cash-based interventions. UNHCR is the lead agency for three working groups/sectors, including Shelter/NFIs, Protection and the Cash & Markets Working Group.

On 7 and 8 April, UNHCR in coordination with the World Food Programme (WFP) provided food packages, kitchen sets, hygiene kits and other relief items, to internally displaced persons (IDPs) in Ghadames in south western Libya. A total of 300 families (some 1,650 individuals) benefitted from these distributions.

During Winter 2020/1, UNHCR, together with partners LibAid and Libyan Red Crescent, distributed winter kits to a total of 3,164 households (14,648 individuals) across Libya. In Eastern Libya 1,323 households (6,432 individuals) were reached, while 462 families (2,466 individuals) in Central Libya received kits. In the West, including locations in and around Tripoli, at Zawiya and at Bani Walid, 1,379 households (5,750 individuals) were reached.

Cash assistance is a valuable tool and in 2020 nearly 3,400 IDP households (21,300 individuals) received cash grants through Danish Refugee Council (DRC) and ACTED. In 2021, as part of the 2020 programme, DRC continued targeting households in the Tripoli area with prepaid cash card distributions, which can be used to purchase items in stores, while ACTED were reaching households in Benghazi and Sebha. New agreements for 2021 have been concluded with ACTED and the Norwegian Refugee Council (NRC).

In addition, UNHCR, through its partner NRC, has targeted 373 individuals with legal assistance and counselling on issues pertaining to Housing, Land & Property rights and civil documentation.



UNHCR in Ghadames distributing food assistance.
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