

Humanitarian Overview - Misrata

Snapshot:

- At least 4,700 third-country nationals (TCNs) and Libyans are waiting to leave Misrata (International Organization for Migration, update 24 April 2011).
- 300 people killed and 1,000 injured in Misrata according to hospital records (18 April).
- At least 12 evacuation operations organized by the humanitarian community have transported over 8,500 people mainly TCNs, and some war wounded, from Misrata.
- On 17 April, an agreement was signed between the UN and the Government of Libya, to facilitate humanitarian access into Libya and establish an international UN presence in Tripoli.

Overview:

The situation in Misrata grows more serious each day. Water and electricity have been cut for over 50 days and medical facilities are overwhelmed by the number of patients. Indiscriminate shelling in civilian areas continues. The exact number of casualties is unconfirmed, though UNICEF has verified that children as young as 9 months have been killed in Misrata, with at least 21 child deaths.

Immediate Needs:

The evacuation of thousands of TCNs and Libyans who wish to leave Misrata is one of the top priorities for the humanitarian community. There are critical shortages of water and food. The population in Misrata relies on well water since the piped water supply has been cut off in the city. Hospitals are struggling to cope with the influx of civilian casualties. Essential drugs and medical supplies in all health facilities are running low.

Humanitarian response to date:

Relief efforts are intensifying since the beginning of April. Humanitarian organizations continue to organize ships to deliver humanitarian goods into Misrata, and to evacuate TCNs and the war wounded.

24 April: An IOM boat is expected to leave Misrata with TCNs to a safer location. The same boat delivered more than 400 tons of food and medical supplies to the city on 22 April.

19 April: The Qatari Red Crescent evacuated 1,200 people from Misrata to Tubruq. They have evacuated 4,000 people from Misrata to date.

18 April: An International Committee of the Red Crescent (ICRC)-chartered ship evacuated over 600 TCNs from Misrata.

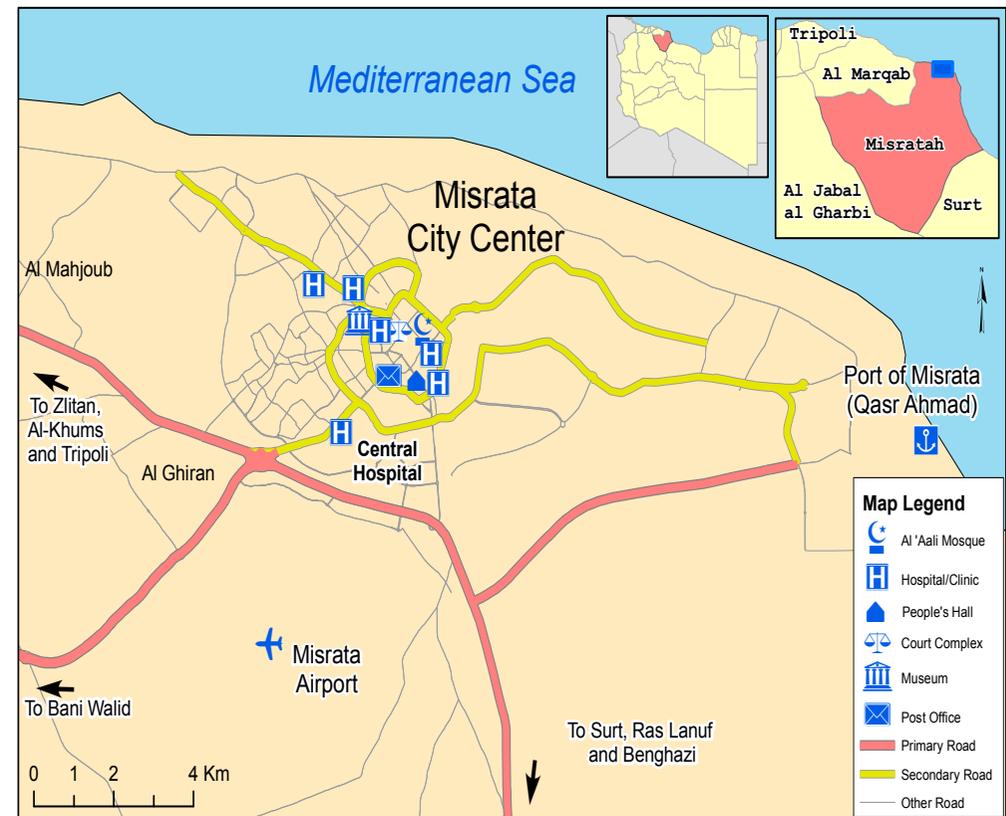
18 April: An IOM-chartered boat carrying 500 tons of humanitarian

goods docked at Misrata seaport. The ship evacuated 971 migrants, mainly Ghanaian nationals, women and children. Also, 100 Libyans, 23 of whom were war casualties, including a child shot in the face and an amputee, were among the rescued.

16 April: Médecins Sans Frontières (MSF), evacuated 99 wounded people by boat from Misrata to Tunisia.

14 April: An IOM-chartered ship delivered 450 tons of humanitarian aid (including medicine, food and blankets) to Misrata. The ship also evacuated nearly

Map of City of Misrata



Cartography: OCHA Libya

1,200 TNCs to Benghazi. The majority of the evacuees were Bangladeshis and Egyptians.

10 April: An International Medical Corps (IMC) ship delivered surgical kits, emergency health kits and medical supplies to hospitals.

9 April: An ICRC ship delivered emergency medical supplies for 300 people.

7 April: A World Food Programme (WFP)-chartered vessel carrying 800 tons of humanitarian aid docked in Misrata. The ship contained medical supplies covering urgent medical needs for 50,000 people for a month provided by the World Health Organization (WHO) and UNICEF; and more than 600 tons of food, which is enough to feed more than 40,000 people for a month. This is the largest relief supply in Libya that the United Nations has provided since the beginning of the crisis.

6 April: The French Red Cross, together with the Maltese Red Cross, delivered 102 tons of food, medicine and hygiene kits.

5 April: A Turkish ferry docked at the Misrata port carrying medical supplies, three ambulances and fifteen health professionals. On the return journey to Turkey, the boat carried around 200 of the wounded Libyans.

3 April: MSF evacuated 71 wounded people by boat from Misrata to Tunisia.

Facts and Figures:

- Misrata commands an important geographic location and economic status as a commercial hub for the exchange of commodities and materials between cities inside Libya.

- The main contributor to the economy in Misrata is a steel mill. Other industries include production of carpets, textiles, baskets, pottery and hardware.

- The city hosts foreign oil and gas companies and has advanced infrastructure.

- Estimated population in the city of Misrata: 330,540 (2006 national household survey for Libya).

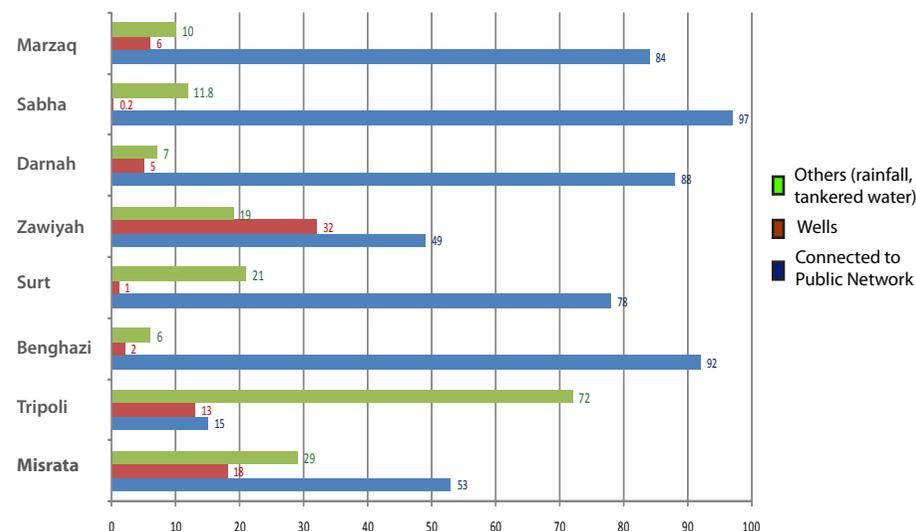
- Prior to the conflict, an estimated 33,000 non-Libyan nationals were living in Misrata.

- Over 50 per cent of households in Misrata are connected with water and sewage networks.

- There are six hospitals, a university, a seaport and an airport in Misrata.

- Anti-government rebels now claim they are in control of Misrata, having taken over several key buildings, including an insurance office used by Government forces snipers, on 22 April. However, media reports indicate that the city has not been liberated at this stage.

Water Supply by governorate (%)



Source: 2006 national household survey for Libya

More information on the humanitarian response to the crisis in Libyan Arab Jamahiriya, including OCHA situation reports, please visit <http://libya.humanitarianresponse.info/>