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Libyan Arab Jamahiriya • Crisis
Situation Report No. 29
24 April 2011

This report is produced by OCHA Libya in collaboration with humanitarian partners, covering the period of 21 to 24 April. The next report will be issued on or around 26 April.

I. HIGHLIGHTS/KEY PRIORITIES

- At least 9,870 people have been evacuated from Misrata through efforts of the humanitarian community.
- The United Nations has established an international humanitarian presence in Tripoli.
- Aid organizations continue to scale-up the humanitarian response inside Libya. The World Food Programme (WFP), UNICEF, the World Health Organization (WHO) and International Organization for Migration (IOM) have all delivered large shipments of humanitarian assistance since 21 April. On 24 April, WFP delivered 500 metric tons of food to Misrata; enough to feed 23,000 people for 30 days.
- United Nations Humanitarian Air Service (UNHAS) has been established for use by humanitarian agencies, donors and partners into and within Libya. Initial funding has been provided by the Central Emergency Response Fund (CERF).
- The US$ 310 million Regional Flash Appeal for the Libyan Crisis is currently funded at 42 per cent with $129 million committed and $1.4 million in pledges.

II. Situation Overview

The protection of civilians remains one of the fundamental concerns as fighting wages on in Misrata and other parts of Libya. Although the exact number of civilian deaths due to the conflict is unknown, human rights organizations, UNICEF and the United Nations High Commissioner for Human Rights have all confirmed civilian deaths, including children as young as nine months, medical personnel and humanitarian workers.

Critical humanitarian needs inside Libya still include medical supplies and personnel, in particular in locations where fighting is ongoing. In most other areas, reports indicate that stocks of food, water and some medical supplies are sufficient for one to two months. However, if the crisis continues, existing social safety networks will be depleted and coping capacities will diminish, increasing needs for basic supplies and services even in areas where the conflict level is low. Preliminary findings of the recent inter-agency multi-sector assessment mission confirmed that the lack of resupply for the regular food provision systems may trigger a food security crisis eastern Libya within as little as two months. Early recommended actions include replenishing food stocks and inputs for local production, and providing assistance to maintain social safety nets and consumer subsidy schemes.

Around 4,700 people still await evacuation assistance from Misrata, including third-country nationals (TCNs), vulnerable people and the wounded. IOM has evacuated 4,100 people so far, and evacuations are ongoing...
with support from the governments of Australia, the United Kingdom and the European Union. A number of other humanitarian organisations have evacuated people from Misrata. At least 9,870 people have been evacuated by humanitarian organisations.

III. Humanitarian Needs and Response

EMERGENCY SHELTER/MIGRATION/POPULATION MOVEMENTS

Libya:
IOM delivered 160 tons of food and medicine to Misrata on 23 April before evacuating 978 TCNs and 17 wounded civilians. This was the fourth evacuation conducted by IOM and one of at least 13 evacuations completed to date. On 23 April, an ICRC chartered boat evacuated 600 civilians from Misrata, mostly nationals from Niger, Egypt and Libya. The humanitarian community is ready to continue evacuations from Misrata as necessary. In Benghazi there is a camp for Misrata evacuees and other TCNs. On 23 April, 1,800 people were staying in the camp, which has a capacity of 3,000 people.

Tunisia:
Thousands of Libyans from the Nafusa Mountain region remain in Tunisia, primarily in Dehiba, Remada and Tatouine. The total number of people in camps on 22 April was 2,270, although UNHCR estimates that 10,000 people have fled the area to Tunisia due to fighting. To avoid passing by Government controlled areas, the majority of the refugees reported crossing at informal border points.

On April 22, there were 930 people at the UNHCR camp in Remada. There is a small transit area in Tatouine which is also full, with around 140 individuals. In Dehiba, the transit point has closed and the United Arab Emirates Red Crescent camp has a population of 1,200. While the number of people in these camps and transit points does not change markedly from day to day, the camp population is in constant flux. Most people stay one or two days before moving on to other shelter options, such as host family or rental home. Islamic Relief is distributing food at the Dehiba border crossing and reports that some beneficiaries had been given 24 hours to leave Kabao and other cities by pro-Qadhafi forces. The security situation remains unstable in the area. Fighting has been regularly observed across the border in the past week. On 21 April, media reports indicated that 100 government forces holding the border outpost of Wazin, including high-ranking officers, defected, crossing into Tunisia. As opposition forces now control the Wazin border crossing, anti-Qadhafi forces are now using this formal crossing.

At other camps in Tunisia, assistance continues to be provided. A UNICEF psychosocial team continues to counsel families and children in the camps.

Egypt:
At the Saloum transit point there are 3,027 people, including 82 families with 155 children. The number of families has decreased in the past week. UNICEF trained social workers continue to monitor children and women, taking special note of pregnant women and persons of concern.

Gaps & Constraints:
As more evacuees arrive in Benghazi from Misrata, IOM faces increased logistical challenges in providing adequate shelter, food and water in Benghazi, prior to moving them by road to the Egyptian border at Saloum and then onto their final countries of destination on commercial and charter flights.

Shelter needs are insufficient at the Saloum transit point. Many of those transiting must sleep in the open because the construction of Rub halls is incomplete.

FOOD SECURITY

A second vessel chartered by WFP arrived in Misrata on 24 April with 350 metric tons of wheat flour — enough to feed 23,000 people for 30 days. The ship also contained 150 metric tons of mixed food including pasta, rice, potatoes; 84 metric tons of bottled water; 12 metric tons of medicines and three ambulances on behalf of UNICEF and international NGOs. WFP has delivered over 950 metric tons of food assistance first to Misrata since 7 April.

WFP delivered 240 metric tons of food last week to Tripoli for subsequent distribution by the Libyan Red Crescent. On 23 April, 30 metric tons of wheat flour were distributed around Tripoli and reached 600 families.
Further deliveries of humanitarian assistance to these areas are currently being prepared. WFP’s first ship carrying humanitarian assistance arrived in Misrata on 7 April carrying more than 600 metric tons of food assistance, enough to feed 40,000 persons for one month.

WFP has distributed 671 metric tons of food in the east to nearly 200,000 beneficiaries in Benghazi, Ajdabiya, Awjla, Jakharra, Sultan, Al Bayda, Jalul, Sulug, Tubruq, Dernah, Al Marj, Al Kufra and Rebianah. Recipients included IDPs, TCNs and other vulnerable groups. Distributions will continue on a regular basis.

WFP has recently opened a new supply route to western Libya. On Monday 17 April, a first convoy of 9 trucks loaded with 240 metric tons of wheat flour and 9 metric tons of High Energy Biscuits, enough to feed 16,000 people for 30 days, crossed to western Libya from Ras Jedir on the Libyan Tunisian border. The food supplies are to be distributed through WFP’s partner, the Libyan Red Crescent, to the crisis-affected population, particularly women and children in Tripoli, Zintan, Yefrin, Nalut, Mezda, Al Reiba and Al Zawia. Yesterday 30 metric tons of wheat flour were distributed around Tripoli and reached 600 families. Further deliveries of humanitarian assistance to these areas are currently being prepared.

WFP has so far mobilized a total of 17,500 metric tons of food for the three countries covered by its North Africa emergency operation. This quantity does not include the funding for the provision of cooked meals for migrants crossing the borders to Tunisia and Egypt (843,230 total meals provided as of 21 April).

**Gaps & Constraints**
There remains a dire need for further access and humanitarian action in conflict-affected areas in western Libya, particularly in certain parts of Misrata and other areas where conflict is on-going, such as Yefrin and Zintan.

**HEALTH**
Where fighting continues, needs in the health sector are acute. Media reports indicate that on 23 April at least 10 people were killed and 50 wounded in fighting in Misrata near Al Hikma Hospital. Doctors at the hospital are overwhelmed by the volume of patients and lack medical equipment, personnel and supplies. An ICRC team has distributed three cubic metres of medical supplies to Al Hikma Hospital. WHO is providing medical drugs and supplies to be delivered to Misrata hospitals and will subsequently evacuate critical patients from Misrata to Benghazi by sea. WHO sent supplies to Ajdabiya from Tubruq by road to cover 7,000 people for 3 months.

**Gaps & Constraints**
Local doctors report unmet medical needs in Nalut and the Nafusa Mountain region. Medical facilities in this area need better access to aid supplies coming in to larger cities to replenish their stocks.

**PROTECTION**
With another day of fighting in Misrata, indiscriminate shelling has again led to civilian casualties and placed civilian lives at risk. Media reports on 24 April indicate that attacks are intensifying. Fighting in Brega and Ajdabiya has continued, including reports that Government forces are firing rockets in residential areas. Wounded citizens, opposition supporters, both civilians and fighters are reportedly afraid to use Government medical facilities, citing cases of torture, disappearance and death as justification of this fear.

On 21 April the Wazin, Libya border crossing was taken by opposition forces, making crossing for anti-Qadhafi forces easier, but put pro-Qadhafi partisans were placed at risk of retribution. At least 30 families left Wazin, crossing into Tunisia. MSF and UNHCR have responded to basic needs for these families, but note that further considerations must be made regarding the protection of civilians following military victories of opposing forces.

A child protection needs assessment is being undertaken by UNICEF and Save the Children. Children displaced from conflict-affected areas are showing signs of high levels of distress, such as withdrawal, sleeping difficulties, nightmares, bed-wetting and refusal to play. There are consistent but unconfirmed reports emerging of gender based violence against adults and children in Ajdabiya, Ras Lanuf and Brega. There are also unconfirmed reports of children being recruited forcibly to take part in hostilities and children being used as human shields.
UNICEF is also collaborating with Handicap International on an emergency Mine Risk Education project, providing information and safety messages to at-risk populations through mass media, outreach and injury surveillance.

**LOGISTICS**

WFP is setting up the UN Humanitarian Air Service (UNHAS) for use by humanitarian agencies and donors into and within Libya. WFP continues to offer transport services from Alexandria/Cairo to Benghazi/Tubruq on a cost recovery basis as well as storage services in Benghazi free of charge to the humanitarian community. The common warehouse operated by WFP in Benghazi is currently storing relief items from several humanitarian partners.

**Gaps & Constraints**

There is an urgent need for commercial liners to resume operations to the ports of Tubruq and Benghazi to facilitate imports of basic items as well as humanitarian deliveries.

### IV. Coordination

Cluster coordination is ongoing. Please refer to [http://libya.humanitarianresponse.info/](http://libya.humanitarianresponse.info/) for all cluster coordination updates and meeting schedules, and comprehensive information on the humanitarian response to the Libyan crisis. The assessment report of the UN mission to Benghazi in mid-April is also available here: [http://libya.humanitarianresponse.info/LinkClick.aspx?fileticket=hZ82Q8DumEc%3d&tabid=66&mid=439](http://libya.humanitarianresponse.info/LinkClick.aspx?fileticket=hZ82Q8DumEc%3d&tabid=66&mid=439)

A UN humanitarian team has arrived into Tripoli to re-establish an international presence. Several organizations including UNHCR, IOM, WHO and UNDP have national staff in Tripoli. Humanitarian actors also have operational bases in Benghazi and in Egypt, Tunisia, Chad and Niger.

### V. Funding

According to the Financial Tracking Services, the US$310 million Flash Appeal for the Libyan Crisis is currently funded at 42 percent with US$ 129 million committed and $1.4 million in pledges. All humanitarian partners, including donors and recipient agencies, are encouraged to inform OCHA’s Financial Tracking Service (FTS - [http://fts.unocha.org](http://fts.unocha.org)) of cash and in-kind contributions by e-mailing: fts@un.org.

### VI. Contact

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