



@UNSMIL/I. Foonnten

Presence and national legal framework

UNHCR has been present in Libya since 1991. It has been carrying out a number of activities including registration, refugee status determination (RSD), durable solutions such as repatriation and resettlement and provision of assistance to urban refugees and other persons of concern. Libya is a signatory to the 1969 Convention of the Organization of the African Union (OAU) governing the specific aspects of refugee problems in Africa but is not party to the 1951 Convention relating to the Status of Refugees. In the absence of a national asylum system, registration, documentation and refugee status determination activities have been carried out by UNHCR.

Operational background

In consultation with the interim government, UNHCR is working to expand the protection space and re-establish refugee processing activities, including registration, refugee status determination and identification of durable solutions. One major concern for UNHCR remains the significant internal displacement of people. During and after the conflict, UNHCR has provided emergency shelter, cash assistance, medical care and educational support to persons of concern including internally displaced persons. Current activities also focus on capacity building in the form of training and information sessions with representatives of civil society organisations. With positive signals from interim government, UNHCR will also provide technical assistance toward establishing national asylum institutions.

UNHCR staffing and budget

Staffing: UNHCR has 35 national staff and 6 international staff.

Budget: 2012 expenditures: US 7,078,958 and 2013 requirements: US 16,555,150.

Partnerships

Government counterparts: Ministry of Foreign Affairs.

Libyan partners: Libyan Humanitarian Agency (LibAid).

International partners: CESVI and International Medical Corps.

IDPs in Libya as of April 2013

Area of origin	Individuals
Misrata	6,122
Tawergha	30,000
Sirte	9,404
Bani Walid	362
Western mountains	9,200
Nalut	1,403
Ghadames	2,402
Kufra	292
Sabha	240
Total	59,425

Refugees and asylum seekers as of 31 August 2013

Country of Origin	Refugees	Asylum seekers	Total
Algeria	4	0	4
Egypt	4	1	5
Chad	19	50	69
Cameroon	1	1	2
DRC	9	17	26
Eritrea	482	2,414	2,896
Ethiopia	30	452	482
Ivory Coast	1	2	3
Iraq	2,495	602	3,097
Liberia	23	2	25
Nigeria	0	2	2
Palestine	3,830	63	3,893
Rwanda	5	0	5
Somalia	185	1,471	1,656
Sudan	658	382	1,040
Togo	1	1	2
Syria	38	13,281	13,319
Ghana	0	1	1
Gambia	0	1	1
Morocco	0	3	3
Sierra Leone	0	1	1
Tunisia	3	1	4
Jordan	2	1	3
Mali	0	2	2
Other	5	16	21
Total	7,795	18,767	26,562

CORE ACTIVITIES

Refugees and asylum seekers

As of 31 August 2013, 7,795 refugees and 18,767 asylum seekers were registered with UNHCR in Libya. Most refugees and asylum seekers live in urban areas. In particular, UNHCR:

- Promotes and facilitates durable solutions including resettlement and voluntary repatriation.
- Conducts regular protection monitoring to identify, register and document persons in need of international protection.
- Through implementing partners Al Wafa, CESVI, Islamic Relief and the Danish Refugee Council provides assistance to refugees in terms of education, health, psycho-social counselling and legal assistance.

Syrian displacement

Since 2011 an increasing number of persons fleeing Syria has sought protection in Libya. Some of them are vulnerable and have special needs. As of 31 August 2013, UNHCR registered 13,319 persons fleeing from Syria.

- UNHCR monitors, profiles and registers persons displaced from Syria.
- Relief assistance is provided on a regular basis to Syrians through civil society organisations.

Mixed migration

A significant number of migrants continue to enter Libya using irregular channels. Among this population some people are in need of international protection. Accordingly, UNHCR:

- Provides assistance with the identification of people in need of international protection as well as unaccompanied minors, victims of trafficking and other vulnerable individuals.
- Convenes trainings on protection needs in the context of mixed-migration for government officials, civil society and other actors (*see box on the right*).
- Collaborates with relevant national and international partners to share information on rescue at sea and to support, through its offices in Rome, Malta and Tripoli, the coordination efforts between all three countries.

Internally displaced persons

The situation of IDPs in Libya continues to remain a source of serious concern. Out of more than 550,000 persons displaced in Libya during the revolution, the large majority have been able to return to their places of origin. Yet, some 59,425 persons face a situation of protracted displacement. These include IDPs from Tawergha, Mushashya, Siaan and other communities. Hence

- UNHCR provides training on principle of internal displacement.
- UNHCR regularly monitors the protection situation in sites hosting internally displaced populations across the country.
- UNHCR supports interim and durable solutions and the reconciliation process for IDPs.

Capacity building activities

Collaboration with Libyan Civil Society: UNHCR regularly organises trainings in Tripoli and Benghazi with Libyan NGOs on international protection principles, property rights and camp management including Libyan Youth Forum, H2O, Child Promise, and Nawaris.

Training with the Libyan government: On 16-18 June, UNHCR Libya held the second training for government officials on international protection. The training focused the definition of refugee under the 1951 Convention, the principle of *non-refoulement*, UNHCR's mandate, data protection and registration of refugees and issuing attestations. Representatives from Ministry of Justice, Ministry of Defense and Ministry of Interior including the Department for Combating Irregular Migration, Libyan Coast Guard and the Immigration Authority attended the training.

Oxford - Tripoli course on forced migration: In June 2013, UNHCR concluded the course on forced-migration at the University of Tripoli in collaboration with the Refugees Studies Centre (RSC) at the University of Oxford. In 2013, UNHCR started the course on forced migration at the University of Tripoli also with the RSC. The first part took place in January while the second in April. This is the first course on forced migration ever convened in Libya.



Marathon with IDP and refugee children
World Refugee Day (June 2013)



Oxford – Tripoli course on forced migration (June 2013)

Donors of UNHCR Libya

European Commission and Switzerland

For further information, please contact:

Emanuela Paoletti
Associate External Relations Officer
Mobile: +218 (0)95 4140022
Email: paoletti@unhcr.org