

UNHCR Supplementary Budget: The Libya Situation 2011



Donor Relations and Resource
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Cover photo:

In the first 10 days of the crisis, some 70,000 people in Libya fled to Tunisia to escape violence.

UNHCR/A.

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THE CONTEXT

Since the violence erupted in Libya in mid-February 2011, more than 170,000 people have fled to neighbouring countries, mostly to Egypt and Tunisia, while thousands more are waiting to cross these borders. Most are Egyptian and Tunisian nationals returning to their countries of origin, although increasing numbers of Libyans and other nationalities are managing to escape. To date, more than 90,000 people have crossed from Libya into Tunisia and close to 80,000 into Egypt.



Exhausted by their ordeal in fleeing Libya, these people try to sleep while their tent is put up. UNHCR / A. Duclos

This large population displacement is causing a significant humanitarian burden for Egypt and Tunisia, which are themselves coping with the aftermath of recent political upheaval. UNHCR is working with the Tunisian and Egyptian authorities, as well as other agencies and

the Red Crescent Societies to support this dramatic influx.

UNHCR immediately deployed staff to the respective border crossings and reinforced its offices in Egypt and Tunisia with emergency response teams made up of staff from offices within the Middle East and North Africa region. As of 28 February, UNHCR had activated 32 emergency staff for Egypt, Libya and Tunisia.

In Libya, there are over 8,000 refugees and 3,000 asylum-seekers registered with UNHCR. In addition, tens of thousands of regular and irregular migrants are known to be in Libya, including Chadians, Eritreans, Iraqis, Palestinians, Somalis, Sudanese and Yemenis. UNHCR is seriously concerned about the many refugees and others trapped inside Libya, particularly people from sub-Saharan Africa who are unable to move.

With the evacuation of international staff and the volatile security environment, the ability of UNHCR's national staff to access refugees and other people of concern in Libya has been severely restricted. Humanitarian organizations have now begun to have access to Benghazi in eastern Libya, which is controlled by the opposition forces. UNHCR's implementing partner in Libya is looking into establishing a presence in Benghazi.

This appeal presents the additional budgetary requirements for UNHCR to continue to respond to the crisis by meeting protection, shelter and non-food needs over a period of three months.

STRATEGY AND ACTIVITIES

Tunisia

The situation is critical in Tunisia, where at the highest point of the influx an estimated 1,000-1,500 people crossed the border every hour. The vast majority have been Egyptian men, although some families have also joined the exodus. The number of Libyans crossing is still relatively low.

Once across the border, people who cannot immediately start their journey home are taken to a transit camp where they can stay for a day or two while transportation is organized. So far, UNHCR has supported a transit site established by the Tunisian Government, some seven kilometres from the Libyan border, which has the capacity for 800 people. A new site was opened on 1 March with a capacity of 10,000 people. Given the continuing influx, UNHCR will set up another transit site for 40,000 people.

As requested by the Tunisian Government, UNHCR is supporting IOM to address the dramatic displacement situation at the border, which will quickly reach a crisis point, with tens of thousands of people in urgent need of onwards transportation to their home countries.

Thus far, UNHCR has responded to the crisis by bringing in airlifts of 300 metric tons of non-food items, 2,900 tents, 35,000 blankets and three rubhalls, as well as procuring 20,000 mattresses locally.

Over the next three months, UNHCR will continue to provide protection and assistance to an estimated 90,000 people crossing the border and being accommodated in a transit facility.

Assistance will include advocacy at the border, counselling of arrivals, as well as identification of vulnerable people and those in need of protection. UNHCR will also register people of concern, provide documentation and assess protection claims, pending the identification of a durable solution for them. UNHCR will continue to distribute non-food items and will provide financial assistance to the host communities to support them in coping with the influx. The Tunisian Red Crescent is also providing counselling for people traumatized by violent events in Libya.



Among the UNHCR aid items airlifted to Tunisia were tents, sleeping mats, blankets and jerry cans. UNHCR/A. Duclos

Egypt

UNHCR has deployed staff to the Sallum border crossing and is working with the Egyptian Red Crescent to address the immediate needs of people at the border. The number of people crossing into Egypt per day is estimated at between 5,000 – 10,000 people, mostly Egyptians, and hundreds of thousands more are expected to cross in the coming weeks. Returning Egyptians are transported to their home towns and cities by the Government of Egypt.

Approximately 3,000 people remain in the transit area awaiting onward transportation. Many people are unable to enter Egypt because they do not have identity documents. UNHCR, in collaboration with IOM, agreed with the Egyptian border authorities to provide water, food and blankets for all those waiting between the border points. UNHCR will also provide psycho-social support to people stranded at the border.

Egypt has opened its borders to all Libyans fleeing the upheaval in their country. Some 3,600 Libyans have crossed the border and traveled to different destinations in Egypt. UNHCR will assist vulnerable Libyans, with particular emphasis on women, children, the elderly and people with disabilities.



The volume of people arriving in Tunisia means that the wait for tents at the transit camp can be long. UNHCR /A. Duclos

Discussions are underway with the Government of Egypt to allow access to Egyptian territory for refugees and asylum-seekers registered with UNHCR in Libya and other people in need of international protection. UNHCR will undertake refugee status determination, protection interventions and seek resettlement opportunities for these refugees, as appropriate. UNHCR will assist them with medical, education and,

financial assistance during their stay in Egypt.

There are concerns about the availability and accessibility of medical care and supplies in Libya. UNHCR will locally procure essential non-food items for 10,000 people as well as medical supplies which will be brought to eastern Libya with the support of the Egyptian and Libyan Red Crescent Societies.

Libya

The majority of refugees and asylum-seekers registered with UNHCR remain in Tripoli, unable to relocate or access basic services. A number of those who have attempted to leave their homes have been assaulted, shot and, in a number of reported cases, killed. There is a prevailing xenophobic attitude towards foreigners in Libya who are blamed for instigating the current unrest. In addition, people of concern from sub-Saharan Africa are accused of being part of the pro-government mercenary forces.

UNHCR is receiving increasingly desperate calls from refugees and asylum-seekers inside Libya about their conditions. The most common request is for emergency evacuation or financial assistance to meet daily needs.

UNHCR's national staff in Libya are working under extremely difficult circumstances to assist people of concern. Together with UNHCR's implementing partner, limited assistance and counselling are being provided. In addition to the local telephone hotlines, UNHCR's Regional Bureau for the Middle East and North Africa also established a similar system at Headquarters to receive calls from Libya and elsewhere.

A UNHCR emergency team has been deployed to Cairo to move into eastern Libya as soon as the situation allows.

Once in Libya, UNHCR will seek to provide immediate assistance to some 20,000 people for three months, including food, non-food items and expanded financial assistance. In addition, UNHCR will undertake at least 20 quick impact projects and provide material assistance in those areas hosting refugees and other people of concern.

UNHCR, in coordination with local NGOs, grassroots associations and community leaders, will establish a rapid monitoring system to identify protection concerns and people with special needs. Refugees and others of concern will receive targeted assistance, including cash grants, non-food items, legal advice and counselling. UNHCR will advocate for refugees and others of concern, closely liaising with community leaders and other authorities to raise awareness about the protection situation. Mechanisms for early warning of further protection needs and displacement movements will be set up.



UNHCR staff help to identify anyone in need of refugee protection. UNHCR / A. Duclos

The Egyptian and Tunisian Governments have also asked UNHCR to assist in alleviating the burden at their borders by exploring with third countries the resettlement of people found to be in need of international protection. UNHCR hopes that resettlement countries will be able to offer resettlement places, in addition to their agreed quota for 2011, in order to assist in meeting the protection needs of those refugees and

asylum-seekers who have or will flee Libya

Regional activities in North Africa

Following requests from the Egyptian and Tunisian Governments, UNHCR is working with the respective authorities and other agencies, in particular IOM, to support the humanitarian evacuation of people from Libya and is assisting in decongesting the border areas. To this end, UNHCR has chartered aircrafts and is also exploring road and sea transport options.

IOM-UNHCR Joint Humanitarian Evacuation Programme

In consultation with the Egyptian and Tunisian authorities, IOM and UNHCR have established a joint humanitarian evacuation programme, which aims to greatly step up ongoing efforts to alleviate the overcrowding at the Tunisian border. The evacuation will focus first on evacuating Egyptians.

IOM and UNHCR have created a single joint cell to manage the effort, operating from UNHCR headquarters.

The requirements for this programme are not included in this appeal. The two organizations have appealed separately to governments to urgently supply massive financial and logistical assets, including planes, boats and expert personnel.

Europe

To date, there have been only a handful of arrivals from Libya and these were refugees who had been registered with UNHCR in Tripoli. UNHCR offices in southern Europe are nonetheless discussing contingency planning with governments, identifying needs and making preparations to deploy additional staff if necessary. In the event of an influx, particular attention will be needed to set up mechanisms for identifying especially vulnerable individuals.

COORDINATION

The Office will implement its response plan in close coordination with other partners. In Egypt, Tunisia and at Headquarters, UNHCR participates actively in the inter-agency humanitarian actions and leads the response to the displacement situation at the borders. Close coordination is maintained with IOM, in particular for the evacuation of people fleeing Libya.

FINANCIAL REQUIREMENTS

Rights Groups and Objectives	Tunisia Pillar 1	Egypt Pillar 1	Libya Pillar 1	Libya Pillar IV	Regional in North Africa Pillar I	Europe Pillar 1	Total
Favourable Protection Environment							
National & regional migration policy					4,000,000		4,000,000
Cooperation with partners			332,380				332,380
Emergency management	600,000	1,984,700	840,000		500,000		3,924,700
Subtotal	600,000	1,984,700	1,172,380	0	4,500,000	0	8,257,080
Fair Protection Processes and Documentation							
Access to asylum procedures						589,351	589,351
Registration and profiling	120,000						120,000
Subtotal	120,000	0	0	0	0	589,351	709,351
Basic Needs and Services							
Basic domestic and hygiene items	5,232,250	1,912,686	1,138,470	110,000			8,393,406
Nutrition		306,600					306,600
Health		1,654,000					1,654,000
Services for groups with specific needs	1,784,800		5,795,662	330,000			7,910,462
Subtotal	7,017,050	3,873,286	6,934,132	440,000	0	0	18,264,468
Community Participation and Self-Management							
Self-reliance and livelihoods			276,984				276,984
Subtotal	0	0	276,984	0	0	0	276,984
External Relations							
Public information	50,000						50,000
Subtotal	50,000	0	0	0	0	0	50,000
Logistics and Operations Support							
Logistics and supply	286,950		55,504	110,000			452,454
Subtotal	286,950	0	55,504	110,000	0	0	452,454
Headquarters and Regional Support							
Emergency response					2,120,000		2,120,000
Subtotal	0	0	0	0	2,120,000	0	2,120,000
SUBTOTAL	8,074,000	5,857,986	8,439,000	550,000	6,620,000	589,351	30,130,337
7 per cent support cost							2,109,124
TOTAL SUPPLEMENTARY BUDGET REQUIREMENTS							32,239,461