

Update no 8 Humanitarian Situation in Libya and the Neighbouring Countries

15 March 2011

Highlights

- **Planned visits:** The UN Secretary General is scheduled to visit Cairo, Egypt, on 20-21 March to meet with the Government, civil society and UN Country Team among others. The UNHCR High Commissioner's visit to Egypt is postponed to 30-31 March.
- **Air Evacuations:** As of 14 March, the IOM/UNHCR Humanitarian Evacuation Cell (HEC) coordinated a total of 161 flights (joint IOM-UNHCR arranged flights and bi-lateral flights coordinated with HEC). As of 14 March, a total of 25,491 persons have been evacuated from Egypt and Tunisia including approximately 14,500 Bangladeshis and 12,100 Egyptians. IOM and UNHCR have agreed that IOM will now concentrate on evacuations with long haul flights (Bangladesh) and UNHCR will focus on evacuations with short haul flights (sub-Saharan Africa). On 14 March, there were 16 confirmed flight departures of (HEC) flights: from Djerba to Dhaka – 7; Khartoum – 2; Bamako – 2; from Alexandria to Dhaka – 4; and from Cairo to Dhaka – 1. On 15 March, 17 flights were confirmed as of 16:00 GVA time: from Djerba to Dhaka – 6; Cairo – 2; Accra – 7; Bamako – 2



An exhausted family waits for papers that will allow them to leave the no man's land between Egypt and Libya. / UNHCR / F.Noy / March 2011

Population Movements

According to the IOM/UNHCR Humanitarian Evacuation Cell (HEC) on 13 March, 280,614 persons had arrived to Tunisia (total 151,324), Egypt (total 117,991), Niger (total 2,205 including Nigeriens 1,865 and 340 others) and Algeria (total 9,094).

Border crossings as of 13 March 2011			
Tunisia		Egypt	
TOTAL 151,324		TOTAL 117,991	
Tunisians	18,892	Egyptians	69,960
Libyans	12,256	Others	48,031
Others	120,176		

As of 14 March, a total of 25,491 persons were evacuated, including 22,647 from Tunisia (11,969 Egyptians and 10,678 others) and 2,844 from Egypt (HEC coordinated flights).

Country Updates

LIBYA

The UN Mission of the UN Humanitarian Coordinator for Libya to Tripoli is ongoing. The Government informed the Humanitarian Coordinator that the mission would be granted access to locations outside Tripoli during their visit, including the areas of recent fighting. The Government said it would address the security requirements necessary to allow humanitarian workers to carry out assessments.

The international humanitarian community's focal point for any forthcoming needs assessment is Under Secretary Dr. Habib Tamar of the Ministry of Public Health.

The UN Humanitarian Coordinator met with the Hungarian and Russian ambassadors to discuss the purpose of the mission and the situation in the country.

60
YEARS



TUNISIA

Tunisian border with Libya (Ras Ajdir border crossing): On 14 March, total of 3,262 persons crossed the border: mainly 1,472 Ghanaian, 1,149 Malian, 323 Nigerians, 311 Bangladeshi, 98 Sudanese, 79 Somalis and 68 Egyptians.

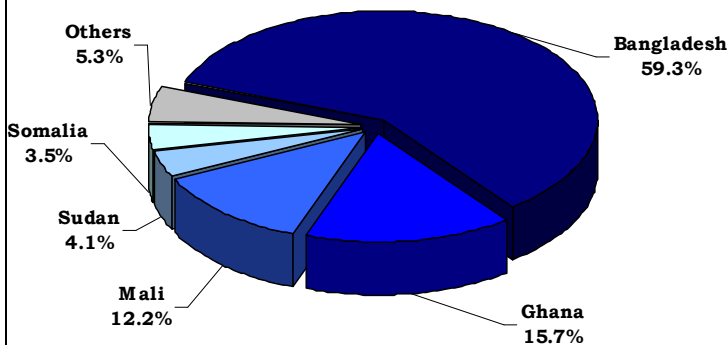
Mr. Mohammad Mijarul Quis, Foreign Secretary of Bangladesh, is visiting Tunisia to discuss with the Government how to scale up the departure of the remaining 9,993 Bangladeshis. The Foreign Secretary also visited the Choucha transit camp. Arrival of Bangladeshis has dropped significantly in the past couple of days.

The newly opened camp by the UAE Red Crescent currently accommodates a total of 1,100 persons including 238 Ghanaian and 600 Malians.

• Protection

Choucha Transit camp: On 14 March, there are 16,175 persons staying in the camp (capacity 20,000).

Choucha camp population as of 14 March
Total population 16,175



A total of 3,801 persons were evacuated including 2,705 Bangladeshi, 220 Egyptians, 345 Malians and 522 Sudanese.

There are currently some 700 persons of concern to UNHCR in the camp, mainly Somalis (592), Eritreans (113), Ethiopians (1) and Syrian (1). The UNHCR Protection team has now gained access to the Progress database in Tripoli to verify whether persons of concern have already been registered with UNHCR Libya.

• Humanitarian assistance

A total of 1,600 tents and 2 rub halls have arrived to Djerba from Amman on 14 March.

EGYPT

• Protection

Egyptian border with Libya (Saloum border crossing): On 13 March, 2,221 new arrivals crossed the border including 110 Bangladeshi, 516 Egyptians, 23 Ghanaians, 19 Iraqis, 2 Ivorians, 875

Libyans, 108 Nigeriens, 76 Nigerians, and 305 Sudanese (according to Egyptian authorities).

On 13 March, 871 Bangladeshis and 43 Nigerians were evacuated (according to IOM).

There are currently 50 persons of concern to UNHCR in the transit area including 35 Somalis, 5 Eritreans, 2 Ethiopians, 7 Sudanese from Darfur and 1 Ivorian. UNHCR staff is in the process of identifying more.

Egyptian security authorities have informed UNHCR through the Ministry of Foreign Affairs that no third country nationals are allowed to cross into Egypt (particularly as asylum-seekers) and that they need to stay in the transit area at the border until they are either evacuated, repatriated or resettled. As Egypt has not allowed humanitarian agencies to set up any reception structures (shelter) in the transit area, conditions are not adequate to host larger populations for longer periods of time.

A group of 76 Ethiopian, Eritrean, Somali persons of concern to UNHCR from Benghazi have crossed over to Egypt. UNHCR has assumed responsibility for this group.

• Contingency planning

The UNHCR led inter-agency contingency plan for Egyptian border with Libya has been finalized.

• Humanitarian assistance

On 12-13 March, 5,000 tents and 3,000 sleeping mats were delivered to the Saloum border. Arrangements for 150sqm storage space at the Saloum port were also finalized.

ALGERIA

The planned UNHCR mission for 14 March to the Algerian-Libyan border crossing area to access the persons currently arriving there was postponed and will now take place on 21-29 March. The mission has already been authorized by the Algerian authorities.

To date according to IOM, 9,094 persons have entered Algeria. The Algerian authorities have reported that 3,968 have been repatriated since 24 February.

Normally third country nationals arriving in Algeria have received good treatment. However, sub-Saharan Africans without legal travel documents may risk detention and summary deportation. According to Algerians authorities, nearly 800 illegal migrants have been arrested and some 550 have been referred to the justice system for deportation. Illegal third country nationals have been allowed only to transit to the south to Niger.

SUDAN

Sudanese border with Libya (Malha border crossing): According to the Inter-agency/Government fact finding mission, a few hundred Sudanese have

arrived to Darfur and more are expected. Some 2,500 Somalis are currently in transit through Sudan to Somalia.

ITALY

Arrivals to Lampedusa: Since mid-January 2011, 8,811 persons have arrived from Tunisia to Lampedusa. There are currently 2,754 persons at the reception centre. Close to 2,000 Tunisians arrived in the island of Lampedusa on 14 March and the flow is ongoing. With the improving weather conditions, the rate of arrivals is expected to continue.

Most Tunisians have not applied for asylum and thus continue to be considered as persons who are on Italian territory without a legal title.

In addition, two boats capsized off the Tunisian coast last night. One was shipwrecked with 5 Tunisian survivors of a total of a group of 46 (including 5 minors) and the second boat with 45 people on board was rescued by a military ship and brought to Lampedusa.

A third ship named the 'Mistral Express', which seems to have left from Tripoli to Morocco with over 1800 migrants on board (mostly Moroccans), is about 150 miles from Augusta (Sicily) awaiting authorization to enter Italian territorial waters. The Italian Ministry of Interior wants to know what the intentions of the people on board are. They are considering refueling at sea. There are 1,836 people on board of different nationalities: 1,715 from Morocco, 39 from Libya, 35 from Algeria, 26 from Egypt, 7 from Tunisia, 6 from Mali, 4 from Sudan, 2 from Syria and 2 from Mauritania.

Evacuation of Eritreans: Two groups of Eritreans who were evacuated to Italy (58 + 70) recently have been accessed by UNHCR and it is anticipated that they will be granted asylum in Italy.

UNHCR presence: Two UNHCR staff remain in Lampedusa and one in Sicily. Additional staff is being recruited and will be deployed to Mineo. Staff is also being recruited for Puglia and Calabria to replace those who were deployed to Lampedusa.

Emergency Staffing

As of 15 March, a total of 86 emergency staff has been mobilized for Tunisia (33), Egypt (29), Libya (17) as well as the MENA and the Airops Cell at HQ (7). Furthermore, 50 staff members are already on site in Tunisia (26), Egypt (11), Libya (6) and at HQ (7).

Contingency planning for the Libya operation at the border areas is ongoing under UNHCR's lead. A senior UNHCR Contingency Planning Coordinator is in Tunisia.

Resource Mobilization

UNHCR's total requirements are USD 32.2m. So far, UNHCR has received contributions in the amount of USD 21,379,629. There are indications from several donor countries of further funds to be expected in the coming days.

UNHCR is currently reviewing the Libya situation appeal and budget upwards due to the increased needs and the high cost of the airlift evacuation. UNHCR continues to appeal to donors for cash contributions towards the UNHCR supplementary appeal. In addition IOM and UNHCR continue to appeal for in kind air and sea asset donations towards the joint IOM/UNHCR evacuation operation.

The Regional Inter-Agency Flash Appeal for the Libyan Crisis requesting total of USD 160.3m in funding for March-June will be revised within two weeks to update scenarios, needs and funding requirements. Currently the appeal is 48% funded.



UNHCR staff on the Tunisian border help to identify anyone in need of refugee protection. /UNHCR / A. Duclos

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Libyan Arab Jamahiriya and neighbouring countries

Population movements since 20th February 2011

As of 15 March 2011



FIGSS
Field Information and
Coordination Support Section

Sources:
UNHCR, Global Insight digital mapping
© 1998 Europa Technologies Ltd.
Population figures:
IOM / UNHCR Humanitarian
Evacuation Cell

The boundaries and names shown
and the designations used on this
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- Capital
 - UNHCR Regional Office
 - UNHCR Country Office / National Office / Liaison Office
 - UNHCR Field Unit
 - Refugee camp
 - Asylum-seeker centre
 - Urban refugee location
 - Main town or village
 - Secondary town or village
 - Population movement (border crossing)
 - Air evacuation
 - Crossing point
 - International boundary
 - Main road
 - Secondary road
 - Railway
- Elevation
(Above mean sea level)
- 3,250 to 4,000 metres
 - 2,500 to 3,250 metres
 - 1,750 to 2,500 metres
 - 1,000 to 1,750 metres
 - 750 to 1,000 metres
 - 500 to 750 metres
 - 250 to 500 metres
 - 0 to 250 metres
 - Below mean sea level



0 200.0
kilometers
Scale: 1:9,389,000

* Lampedusa figure includes arrivals since mid-January 2011