

Update no 10 Humanitarian Situation in Libya and the Neighbouring Countries

17 March 2011

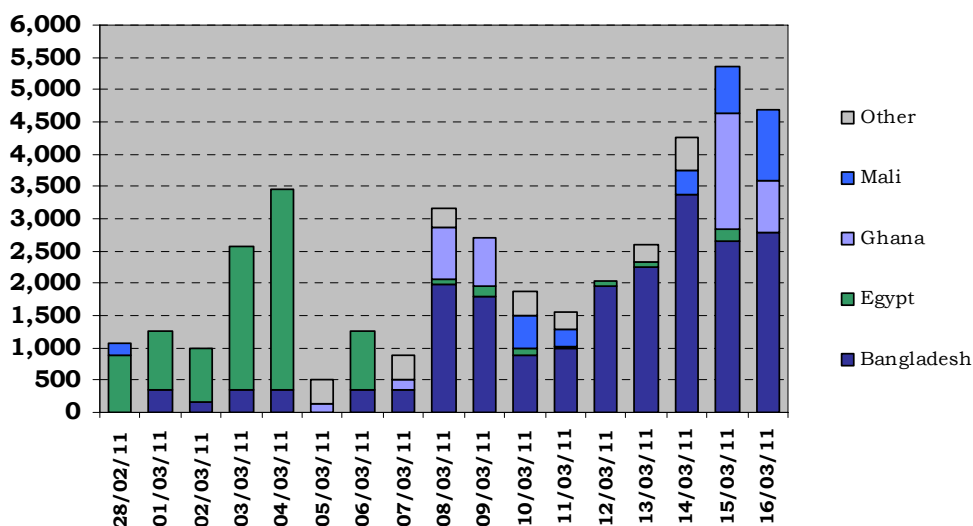
Highlights

- The High Commissioner addressed a letter to the President of the European Commission, copied to the EU Presidency and the Member States on 15 March. He called for support for (1) the provision of resettlement places, over and above existing quotas, for non-Libyan refugees (primarily Eritrean, Sudanese and Somalis) fleeing or being evacuated from Libya; (2) reception and processing capacity for spontaneous arrivals from Libya, as well as for those who may be evacuated from Libya and; (3) responsibility-sharing arrangements in the event of large numbers of arrivals in Southern Europe (material support, relocation). UNHCR and IOM will present the North Africa operation and funding needs on 21 March to the Council working group on Humanitarian Aid and Food Aid (COHAFA).
- The UNHCR High Commissioner and IOM Director General will brief donors in Geneva on 18 March 2011.
- The UN Humanitarian Coordinator for Libya will brief member states on his recent mission to Libya tentatively planned for 24 March in Geneva.
- **Air Evacuations:** As of 16 March, the joint IOM/UNHCR Humanitarian Evacuation Cell (HEC) coordinated a total of 200 flights (IOM/UNHCR arranged flights and bi-lateral flights coordinated with HEC). As of 16 March, a total of 40,230 persons were evacuated including 34,608 from Tunisia and 5,902 from Egypt (HEC coordinated flights).



A man crosses the Tunisian border from Libya./ UNHCR/ Branthwaite March 2011

Departures from Tunisia and Egypt by destination as of 16 March
Total departures 40,230 persons, IOM / UNHCR coordinated flights



60
YEARS



Population Movements

By 15 March, 293,295 persons had arrived to Tunisia, Egypt, Niger and Algeria.

Border crossings as of 15 March 2011			
Tunisia	Egypt	Niger***	Algeria**
TOTAL 156,322	TOTAL 124,289	TOTAL 4,077	TOTAL 9,153
Tunisians 18,966	Egyptians 71,554	Nigeriens 3,575	Egyptians 1,635
Libyans 14,670*	Others 52,735*	Others 502	Libyans 1,391
Others 122,696			Others 6,127
* This figure includes usual border traffic of commuters, frontier workers etc.			
** ECHO figures 14 March			

Country Updates

LIBYA

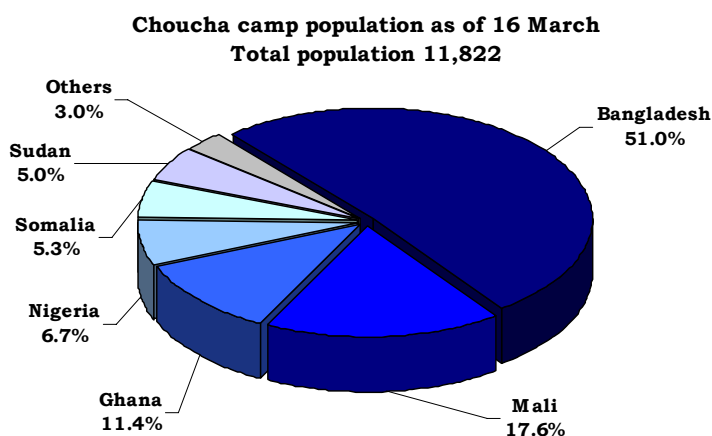
The UNHCR Libya emergency team is on stand-by in Al Saloum, Egypt. While awaiting deployment, the team is not only monitoring the situation of persons of concern to UNHCR through the Libyan Red Cross, but also facilitating evacuations of individuals and groups towards Egypt. UNHCR has already provided relief items through the Libyan Red Cross. The team is also assisting UNHCR Egypt emergency team in assistance and protection activities in Saloum.

TUNISIA

• Protection

Tunisian border with Libya (Ras Ajdir border crossing)

Choucha Transit camp: On 16 March, a total of 1,013 people arrived, including from Ghana (406), Bangladesh (245), Mali (184), Sudan (90), Egypt (48), Nigeria (21) and Philippines (19). As of 16 March, 11,822 people resided in the camp. There are over 740 persons of concern to UNHCR in Choucha camp at present, including 624 Somalis and 115 Eritreans.



• Humanitarian assistance

UNHCR has delivered 3,875 tents since the start of the operation. Nearly 3,000 tents have been erected. The remaining tents have been handed to INGOs, UN agencies and the military. UNHCR has so far distributed 29,400 blankets and 2,000 mattresses.

• Contingency planning

UNHCR is finalizing in conjunction with partners a contingency planning to respond to influxes from Libya, while OCHA is working on a contingency planning on displacement inside Libya.

Camp run by the UAE Red Crescent (est. capacity 1,400): On 16 March, a total of 746 persons are staying in the camp. Some 2,230 meals were distributed in the camp.

Camp run by IFRC (est. capacity 2,000 persons): The camp is not opened yet.

EGYPT

Egyptian border with Libya (Saloum border crossing): UNHCR continued to monitor arrivals at the transit area along the border and has seen more Libyans with families arriving as compared to 15 March, possibly due to fear that Benghazi may be bombed and that the road to the border may be blocked. People were also observed leaving Drena, some 300 kilometers from the border.

A total of 2,250 people arrived including 1,211 Libyans, some 600 Egyptians and 794 people of other nationalities including Sudanese on 16 March.

A total of 1,317 people including 585 Bangladeshi, 68 Nigerians, 63 Nigeriens, 281 Chadians, 55 Mauritians departed from the transit area (according to IOM).

• Protection

Palestinians have not yet been allowed to transit through Egypt to Gaza. Currently two Palestinians are waiting at the border on the Libyan side with valid Palestinian papers and an official letter from the Palestinian Authority to enable them to enter Gaza.

UNHCR is continuing interviews with 110 Eritreans, Somalis and Ethiopians who arrived from Benghazi (43 by boat to Alexandria and then transferred to Saloum). Reportedly another group of some 180 persons from Benghazi is expected to arrive on 17 March. No nationality breakdown is available at the moment.

Thirteen Ethiopians among the group who arrived from Benghazi have requested UNHCR to assist them to go to Sudan. They have obtained attestations from the Sudanese consulate in Benghazi testifying that they are Ethiopian nationals and are requesting the authorities to let them transit through Egypt. Three other Ethiopians from the same group requested UNHCR to assist them to return to Ethiopia.

• Humanitarian assistance

Some 6,000 meals were served in the camp.

• Contingency planning

Discussions on contingency planning continued with partners and authorities. UNHCR led meetings with OCHA, WFP, WHO, UNICEF, IOM and NGOs to discuss propositioning of food and non-food items and to strengthen the response capacity for significant outflows from Libya.

ALGERIA

The embassy of Senegal in Algeria contacted UNHCR to request assistance for repatriation of some 300 Senegalese who have not been allowed to cross the Algerian border with Libya. According to the embassy there are some 1,000 Senegalese in Libya, therefore additional 700 would also require assistance in evacuation to Senegal. The embassy will provide information on the group composition (women, children, etc.) as well as where they are expected to enter into Algeria.

ITALY

Arrivals to Lampedusa: A total of 109 Tunisians arrived in Lampedusa on 16 March, bringing the total number of arrivals since mid-January to 10,575. Currently 2,819 persons are hosted in two reception centers.

MFA Undersecretary Stefania Craxi, presently visiting Lampedusa, stated that negotiations with the Tunisian authorities were proceeding well and it would soon be possible to repatriate Tunisians from Italy. She also stated that the Tunisian authorities were ready to further strengthen the border controls along the eastern coastline of Tunisia which could lead to a drastic reduction of the migration influx via sea to Italy. She added that Italy however is preparing emergency plans for a possible mass-influx from Libya.

Emergency Staffing

As of 16 March, a total of 88 emergency staff will/have been mobilized for Tunisia (34), Egypt (30), Libya (16) as well as the MENA and the Airops Cell at HQ (8). Furthermore, 51 staff members are already on site in Tunisia (26), Egypt (11), Libya (6) and at HQ (8).

Resource Mobilization

UNHCR's total requirements have been revised to approx. USD 55 million. Further details will be shared in the donor briefing on 18 March. So far, UNHCR has received contributions in the amount of USD 31,113,856.

UNHCR continues to appeal to donors for cash contributions towards the UNHCR supplementary budget. In addition, IOM and UNHCR continue to appeal for in-kind air 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 to update scenarios, needs and funding requirements by the beginning of April. Currently the appeal is 50% funded.



Bangladeshi men queue for food at the Choucha refugee camp. /UNHCR/Brandhwaite March 2011

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Libyan Arab Jamahiriya and neighbouring countries

Population movements since 20th February 2011

As of 17 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
map do not imply official endorsement
or acceptance by the United Nations.



- 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