

# Update no 18 Humanitarian Situation in Libya and the Neighbouring Countries

12 April 2011

## Highlights

UN Secretary-General Ban Ki-Moon will travel to Cairo on Thursday, 14 April 2011, for meetings with the Arab League. The EU's High Representative for Foreign Affairs and Security Policy, Catherine Ashton, will also attend the meeting.

In a letter to EU and NATO Member States, Emergency Relief Coordinator Valerie Amos noted that the humanitarian community has been successful in delivering food, medical equipment and other items into Misrata, Libya, on civilian vessels without military escort. She stressed that the humanitarian community would like to continue exploring these options before invoking military support.

## Population Movements

By 11 April, a total of 501,240 persons crossed from Libya to neighbouring countries.

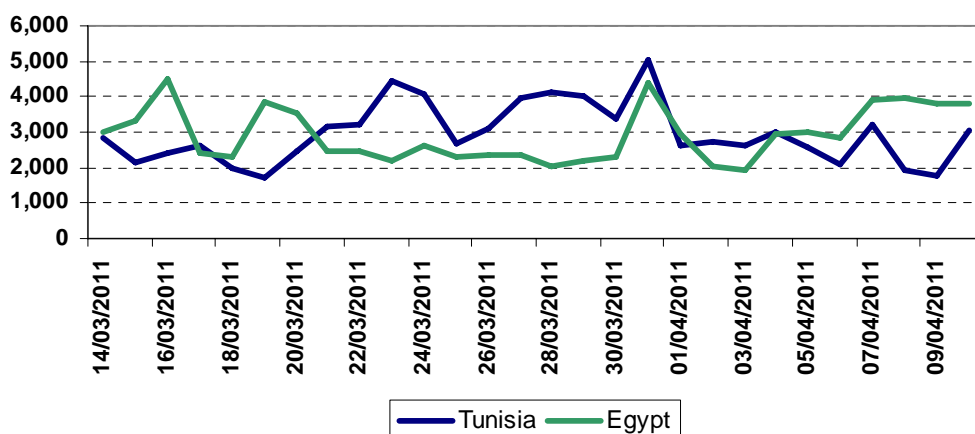
*Breakdown as of 10 April 2011*

Tunisia		Egypt		Niger		Algeria		Sudan	Chad
Tunisians	20,366	Egyptians	82,218	Nigeriens	33,675	Algerians	1,078	not available	not available
Libyans*	450,168	Libyans*	56,656	Others	2,905	Libyans	3,599		
Others	165,333	Others	59,827			Others	9,449		
<b>TOTAL</b>	<b>235,867</b>	<b>TOTAL</b>	<b>199,700</b>	<b>TOTAL</b>	<b>36,580</b>	<b>TOTAL</b>	<b>14,126</b>	<b>TOTAL</b>	<b>2,800</b>
								<b>TOTAL</b>	<b>6,219</b>

Source: IOM in cooperation with national authorities

\* Includes usual border crossings of commuters, traders etc.

## Total border crossings into Egypt and Tunisia



**60**  
YEARS



## Country Updates

### LIBYA

As part of the Inter-Agency Assessment Team, UNHCR staff went to Eastern Libya on Thursday, 7 April 2011. The first destination was Tobruk, where approximately 1,200 families were identified who have fled the violence in Ajdabia and were now staying with host families or other temporary shelter. The Inter-Agency Assessment team then went on to Benghazi, from where they have been operating since Saturday, 9 April 2011. UNHCR, together with UNICEF and UNFPA, has started an assessment of the IDP situation in Benghazi and surrounding areas. In addition, the Protection cluster has been established in cooperation with the international NGOs based in Benghazi.

The Transitional Council has activated a Relief Committee in Benghazi, which is seeking to coordinate aid to IDPs, in cooperation with the Libyan Red Crescent (LRC). So far, the Relief Committee has identified over 35,000 IDPs, mostly from Ajdabia and a few from Brega. Most of them are now living with host families in Benghazi and about 6,000 in settlements. However, the Relief Committee estimates that at least 100,000 are internally displaced as the population of Ajdabia before the crisis was approximately 120,000. Aid workers reported that most of the population has left Ajdabia. UNHCR can currently not verify these statements.

UNHCR dispatched an additional four trucks carrying 2,000 kitchen sets and 4,000 plastic mats from Saloum border to Tobruk for distribution among Libyan IDPs in Tobruk and surrounding areas. It is also currently accelerating the procurement and delivery of NFIs to Benghazi area. This follows the delivery last week of 2,000 tents and 7,000 blankets.

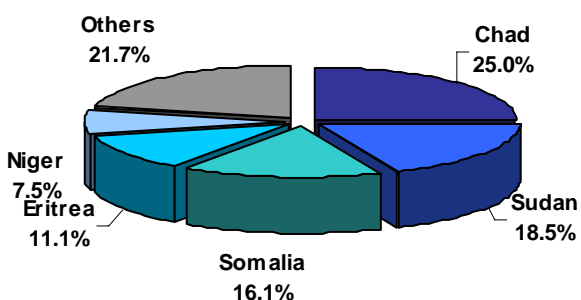
### TUNISIA

On 10 April, 8,367 people were hosted in three camps; 5,465 in Choucha camp, 1,322 in the UAE camp and 1,589 in the recently opened IFRC camp. This represents a significant decrease over previous figures. Chadian, Sudanese and Somalis remain the largest populations, which currently include 2,095 nationals from Chad, 1,549 from Sudan and 1,351 from Somalia. There are currently 2,357 people of concern to UNHCR in the camps, among them 1,351 Somalis, 925 Eritreans, 28 Iraqis, 27 Palestinians and 26 Libyans.



*Men wait in line for food at one of the three distribution points at Choucha camp. /UNHCR/ J.Tanner*

**Camp Population - 11 April 2011**



A new development in Tunisia is the crossing of 520 Libyans, mostly families, to Deheba, a remote area approximately 4 hours drive south from the border crossing Ras Jdir. On 8-9 April, UNHCR conducted a first rapid needs assessment and on 10 April a second assessment team went to Deheba, Tatouine and Remada for a more in-depth assessment. While some of the displaced are hosted by Tunisian families, the majority found refuge in a Youth hostel in Deheba. The local host community is providing support, but their capacity is extremely strained. Most of the newly arrived fled from the western mountain areas, some as far as 200 km into Libya. They mentioned that people with limited resources and elderly are still trapped inside the country and they reported that they expect another 5,000 people to arrive in the next days. Most of them are Berbers, who have claimed allegiance with the opposition forces and now feel threatened by the Government. There are over 2 million people living in the mountain area along the Tunisian border and it is not clear how many of them will potentially flee into Libya. UNHCR made contact with the army commander in the area who

designated the football field in Ramada as a safe area for a camp site and dispatched 105 lightweight, 27 canvas tents and 1200 blankets to the location. The influx into the south of Tunisia represents a new operational challenge to UNHCR and constitutes the first time that a larger number of Libyans are prepared to remain in camps. UNHCR is dispatching additional NFIs to the area.

UNHCR remains concerned about the increasing number of mainly Somalis who put their lives at risk as they clandestinely return from Choucha to Libya for onward journey across the Mediterranean towards Italy. UNHCR now estimates that approximately 700 Somalis have left the camp, including women and children, and returned to Libya to embark on vessels heading to Italy. UNHCR has launched an extensive mass information campaign to discourage the movements. An awareness leaflet in Arabic and English has been developed and distributed. Focus group discussions have been held with the Eritrean and Somali communities for the same purpose and in order to seek their support to distribute the leaflets. The leaflets were also shared with the camp management, IOM and other partners. UNHCR continues to meet with community representatives as well as provide individual counselling on the matter.

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## EGYPT

The influx into Egypt has increased in the past days and now stands at over 3,000 per day. UNHCR staff observes an increased number of Libyan families crossing into Egypt. Most of them currently do not need UNHCR assistance and told UNHCR staff that they will go on to other cities in Egypt to stay with relatives or friends.

There are currently approximately 3,500 people remaining at Saloum border crossing. UNHCR has registered 555 people of concern, among them 287 Sudanese, 106 Eritreans, 73 Ethiopians and 66 Somalis.

UNHCR has received permission to refurbish two buildings at Saloum port to host people of concern to UNHCR who can not be evacuated. The construction of two rub halls for migrants awaiting their evacuation is also proceeding.



*Chadians waiting for their evacuation at Saloum border crossing./  
UNHCR / N.Bose*

As of 6 April, 1,920 mats, 2,926 blankets, 174 packets of plastic sheeting, 52 jerry cans and 313 mattresses were distributed at Saloum border.

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## ITALY

The total number of new arrivals since mid-January increased to 26,104 people, among them 22,746 Tunisians, 706 Eritreans, 198 Ethiopians and 154 Somalis. The remaining number of people currently remaining in Lampedusa is 1,568, mainly Tunisians.

According to Italian border police officials, approximately 500 Tunisians have been recently returned to Italy by the French border authorities in application of the bi-lateral re-admission agreement, but it is estimated that around 6,000 Tunisians have actually succeeded to cross the border irregularly.

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## MALTA

Since 28 March, 1,016 people arrived to Malta, including 411 Somalis, 270 Eritreans, 87 Ethiopians, 26 Ivorians and 16 Malian.

## EUROPEAN UNION

In its conclusions of the Justice and Home Affairs Council meeting in Luxemburg on 11 April, the Council recalled “that resettlement of refugees on a voluntary basis, in particular those living for some years in a situation of protracted displacement and vulnerability, and having no other perspective, can represent a durable solution for them. The Council takes note of the willingness of certain Member States to consider offering resettlement opportunities for the refugees present in the region. The Council invites Member States to continue supporting UNHCR in the development of resettlement programmes and calls on the Commission to identify solutions for supporting financially such resettlement actions.”

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### Resource Mobilization

UNHCR revised its Supplementary Budget for the Libya Situation, which now has a total need of USD 68,649,732. So far, UNHCR has received contributions in the amount of USD 38,887,706; hence it is 57 % funded. UNHCR continues to appeal to donors for urgent cash contributions towards the UNHCR supplementary budget. Without additional contributions, ongoing emergency protection and assistance activities are at risk.

The Regional Inter-Agency Flash Appeal for the Libyan Crisis was revised on 1 April, requesting a total of USD 310.8 million for March-June. Currently the appeal is 39% funded.

# Libyan Arab Jamahiriya and neighbouring countries

As of April 2011



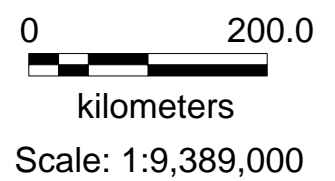
**FIGSS**  
Field Information and  
Coordination Support Section

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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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
  - 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



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