

# Libya – Complex Emergency

SEPTEMBER 30, 2021

## SITUATION AT A GLANCE

<b>6.6</b> MILLION	<b>823,000</b>	<b>212,593</b>	<b>643,123</b>	<b>610,128</b>
Estimated Population of Libya	Estimated Number of People in Need of Humanitarian Assistance in Libya	IDPs in Libya	Registered IDP Returns	Migrants in Libya
<i>UN – November 2018</i>	<i>UN – July 2021</i>	<i>IOM – June 2021</i>	<i>IOM – June 2021</i>	<i>IOM – September 2021</i>

- Humanitarian actors reached 63 percent of the 451,000 individuals targeted for humanitarian assistance in 2021, the UN reports.
- Incidents of bureaucratic impediments decline but continue to adversely affect humanitarian operations in September.
- USAID/BHA partner IOM continues to provide critical health services to vulnerable populations as rates of COVID-19 cases in Libya decline.



<b>TOTAL U.S. GOVERNMENT HUMANITARIAN FUNDING</b> For the Libya Response in FY 2021	USAID/BHA <sup>1</sup>	\$9,524,358
	State/PRM <sup>2</sup>	\$29,830,000
<b>Total</b>		<b>\$39,354,358</b>

*For complete funding breakdown with partners, see detailed chart on page 5*

<sup>1</sup>USAID's Bureau for Humanitarian Assistance (USAID/BHA)  
<sup>2</sup>U.S. Department of State's Bureau of Population, Refugees, and Migration (State/PRM)

## KEY DEVELOPMENTS

### Humanitarian Response Reaches 63 Percent of Target Caseload

Improving security conditions following the cessation of large-scale hostilities in late 2020 and early 2021 enabled humanitarian actors to reach nearly 286,000 individuals with assistance from January to May, representing 63 percent of the 451,000 targeted by the UN—including internally displaced persons (IDPs), migrants, and refugees—for humanitarian assistance in 2021; during the same period in 2020, humanitarian actors reached fewer than 200,000 vulnerable people. From January to May 2021, humanitarian actors provided more than 116,500 people with food assistance, nearly 70,400 individuals with outpatient health consultations, and approximately 42,560 people with relief commodities, including essential household items such as blankets and mattresses, the UN reports. The U.S. Government (USG) continues to support implementing partners to provide a range of humanitarian services for vulnerable populations, including health; protection; shelter; and water, sanitation, and hygiene (WASH) assistance.

### Bureaucratic Impediments Continue to Affect Humanitarian Response

Relief actors continued to confront constraints to the delivery of humanitarian assistance in September, with the UN recording nearly 130 access incidents during the month. While the figure represents the sixteenth consecutive monthly decline in the total number of reported incidents, bureaucratic impediments to the movement of agencies, personnel, or goods into and within Libya—which constituted 67 percent of all reported incidents during the month—significantly impeded humanitarian operations. In particular, the lack of official procedures for the registration of international non-governmental organizations (INGOs) and the processing of visas for INGO staff undermined humanitarian operations; one USAID/BHA partner reported that ongoing visa-issuance delays threatened programs and activities that target thousands of beneficiaries. USAID/BHA and partners continue to track and advocate for a solution to bureaucratic impediments. Protection was the sector most affected by access impediments during September, representing 11 percent of all reported access incidents during the month, though the mine action sector was also significantly affected, representing 8 percent of all reported incidents. Separately, Libyan authorities' suspension of humanitarian flights in early August continues to impede the International Organization for Migration (IOM) and the Office of the UN High Commissioner for Refugees (UNHCR) evacuation and resettlement operations for migrants and refugees.

### COVID-19 Positivity Rates Decline in Libya as Immunizations Continue

New coronavirus disease (COVID-19) cases in Libya continued to decline in September, falling from nearly 55,600 cases during August to 29,500 cases in September, the UN World Health Organization (WHO) reports. Despite the improvement, the case positivity rate countrywide remained at more than 20 percent, or nearly four times the WHO-recommended threshold of below 5 percent. Community transmission of the disease remained present in all 13 Libyan districts. As of September 30, the UN had recorded 340,100 COVID-19 cases, as well as 4,651 associated deaths, in Libya since the outbreak began.

As of late September, nearly 1.4 million people—approximately 19 percent of the population targeted for immunization—had received one COVID-19 vaccine dose, while nearly 207,300 people—approximately 3 percent of the target population—had received two doses and were fully vaccinated. With USAID/BHA and other donor funding, IOM continued to provide COVID-19 assistance to IDPs and migrants in Libya, with IOM medical teams conducting 60 outreach and awareness-raising sessions

and providing medical screening and outreach consultations to more than 2,400 IDPs and migrants from September 5 to 11.

### **IDP Return Rate Plateaus While Relief Actors Address Forced Evictions**

As of June, approximately 212,600 individuals remained displaced in Libya, representing the twelfth consecutive month of declining IDP totals in Libya, with returns continuing across the country, IOM reports. Since the beginning of 2021, nearly 65,000 IDPs in Libya had returned to their areas of origin and other locations by June. Compared to the increase in IDP returns during the final quarter of 2020, the rate of IDP returns in Libya has plateaued in recent months, with returns hampered by localized insecurity, lack of social acceptance, damaged infrastructure, and the lack of basic services in many locations, according to IOM.

Meanwhile, forced evictions, which predominantly affect displaced individuals and households living in informal sites, continue to expose IDPs to increased protection risks, exacerbate the risk of secondary displacement, and encourage vulnerable populations to return to unsafe dwellings, the UN reports. In response, UN agencies established an Evictions Task Force in August to track evictions and provide guidance for relief actors addressing the humanitarian impacts of forced evictions on vulnerable populations. As of July 2021, relief actors estimate an estimated 20,000 individuals in informal settlements across Libya remain at risk of eviction. USAID/BHA continues to support durable solutions for IDPs in Libya, assisting one INGO to provide returnee families and affected populations with access to temporary improvements to protective shelters.

### **Migrants to Libya Face Poor Detention Centers, Increased Food Insecurity**

Libya remains both a destination and a transit point for migrants in the region, hosting more than 610,100 migrants as of September and approximately 42,200 refugees and asylum seekers, according to the UN. The figure includes approximately 25,400 migrants and refugees who were intercepted by the Libyan Coast Guard and disembarked in Libya from January to September 2021, a 180 percent increase from the same period in 2020. Migrants intercepted by Libyan authorities are held in crowded detention centers where they frequently lack access to safe drinking water and health care services and are exposed to elevated protection risks. As of September, in 2021, relief organizations had performed more than 140 monitoring visits to migrant detention centers to assess conditions in these centers and provide critical assistance, the UN reports. Relief actors continue to underscore the need for improved Government of Libya (GoL)-led initiatives to address inhumane detention conditions and ensure receipt of adequate food, health, and legal assistance.

Migrants in Libya require multi-sector assistance, including health care, food, shelter, and WASH assistance, according to IOM. One in five migrants in Libya is moderately or severely food insecure, according to a joint IOM and UN World Food Program (WFP) survey conducted during July. Food shortages remain prevalent among migrants in Libya as a result of the prolonged socio-economic effects of the COVID-19 outbreak, which diminished migrants' labor and income opportunities, compounded by elevated food prices in Libya that remain 10 percent higher than pre-COVID-19 outbreak levels, the UN reports. A State/PRM-supported INGO partner provided nearly 16,000 migrants intercepted at sea with humanitarian assistance from January to July and continues to urge the GoL to release migrants held in unsafe detention centers that do not meet humanitarian standards.

## KEY FIGURES



6,000

Number of health consultations provided with USAID/BHA funding since January 2021



4

USG partners providing humanitarian logistics and coordination support in Libya



6

USG partners providing humanitarian protection services in Libya

## U.S. GOVERNMENT RESPONSE

### HEALTH

USAID/BHA addresses urgent health needs in Libya through support for IOM and one INGO partner that provides life-saving services in static health facilities and mobile clinics. USAID/BHA health partners provide medicines, medical supplies, and basic equipment, as well as training to community health workers who support the provision of community-based maternal and child health care services, among other activities. In response to the COVID-19 outbreak in Libya, USAID/BHA is also supporting an INGO partner to provide COVID-19 case management services. Meanwhile, with State/PRM support, UNHCR and another implementing partner provide primary and emergency health care services to refugees, IDPs, and other vulnerable populations throughout Libya. State/PRM partners also provide equipment and infrastructure support to local health care facilities and distribute hygiene kits, soap, personal protective equipment, and other items to vulnerable populations

### LOGISTICS AND COORDINATION

With USAID/BHA support, the WFP-managed UN Humanitarian Air Service (UNHAS) provides humanitarian transport for personnel and cargo—including urgently needed COVID-19 supplies—across Libya, bolstering response efforts by improving humanitarian access. USAID/BHA funding to the UN Office for the Coordination of Humanitarian Affairs (OCHA) and two INGOs also supports humanitarian advocacy, assessments, coordination, and information management in Libya.

### PROTECTION AND REFUGEE SUPPORT

State/PRM partner UNHCR provides reception and registration services for refugees and asylum seekers, humanitarian evacuation flights for refugee resettlement, distributes essential relief items, and provides cash assistance to urban refugees and asylum seekers. Additionally, USAID/BHA supports IOM and four INGOs to implement protection programs for vulnerable populations in Libya and provide voluntary humanitarian return assistance to migrants. USAID/BHA-funded protection activities include bolstering child protection services, delivering emergency case management and referral services for gender-based violence survivors, providing individual psychosocial support services, and conducting community awareness-raising sessions on protection risks and related issues. USAID/BHA partners also operate child-friendly spaces and listening and counseling centers for women and girls to meet protection needs.



## 2

State/PRM partners providing MPCA in Libya

## MULTIPURPOSE CASH ASSISTANCE

With funding to UNHCR and another implementing partner, State/PRM supports the distribution of multipurpose cash assistance (MPCA) to help IDPs, migrants, and other vulnerable households in Libya meet their basic needs. MPCA provides a flexible means for vulnerable populations with access to markets to purchase food or other basic items according to their needs.

### CONTEXT IN BRIEF

- Armed conflict, civil unrest, and political instability have adversely affected Libya since 2011. Fluctuations in localized conflict—ongoing since 2014—and economic volatility, combined with Libya’s status as a major transit country for refugees and migrants with insufficient capacity to address their needs, have contributed to worsened humanitarian conditions in the country. Consequently, the UN estimates that more than 800,000 people in Libya require humanitarian assistance in 2021.
- On November 5, 2020, U.S. Ambassador Richard B. Norland reissued a disaster declaration for Libya due to the effects of the ongoing complex emergency and lack of local capacity to effectively address the humanitarian needs of conflict-affected populations.

### USG HUMANITARIAN FUNDING FOR THE LIBYA RESPONSE IN FY 2021<sup>1</sup>

IMPLEMENTING PARTNER	ACTIVITY	LOCATION	AMOUNT
<b>USAID/BHA</b>			
Implementing Partners	Health; Humanitarian Coordination, Information Management, and Assessments (HCIMA); Protection; Shelter and Settlements	Countrywide	\$7,623,228
IOM	Health, Protection, WASH	Al Wahat	\$900,000
OCHA	HCIMA	Countrywide	\$200,000
UNHAS	Logistics	Countrywide	\$800,000
	Program Support		\$1,130
<b>TOTAL USAID/BHA FUNDING</b>			<b>\$9,524,358</b>
<b>STATE/PRM</b>			
Implementing Partners	Food Assistance, Health, Logistics Support, MPCA, Protection, WASH	Countrywide	\$15,400,000
IOM	Health	Countrywide	\$730,000
UNHCR	Health, Logistics Support, MPCA, Protection	Countrywide	\$13,700,000
<b>TOTAL STATE/PRM FUNDING</b>			<b>\$29,830,000</b>
<b>TOTAL USG HUMANITARIAN FUNDING FOR THE LIBYA RESPONSE IN FY 2021</b>			<b>\$39,354,358</b>

<sup>1</sup> Year of funding indicates the date of commitment or obligation, not appropriation, of funds. Funding figures reflect publicly announced funding as of September 30, 2021.

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## PUBLIC DONATION INFORMATION

- The most effective way people can assist relief efforts is by making cash contributions to humanitarian organizations that are conducting relief operations. A list of humanitarian organizations that are accepting cash donations for disaster responses around the world can be found at [interaction.org](https://www.interaction.org).
- USAID encourages cash donations because they allow aid professionals to procure the exact items needed (often in the affected region); reduce the burden on scarce resources (such as transportation routes, staff time, and warehouse space); can be transferred very quickly and without transportation costs; support the economy of the disaster-stricken region; and ensure culturally, dietarily, and environmentally appropriate assistance.
- More information can be found at:
  - USAID Center for International Disaster Information: [cidi.org](https://www.cidi.org)
  - Information on relief activities of the humanitarian community can be found at [reliefweb.int](https://www.reliefweb.int).

USAID/BHA bulletins appear on the USAID website at [usaid.gov/humanitarian-assistance/where-we-work](https://www.usaid.gov/humanitarian-assistance/where-we-work)