

Libya – Complex Emergency

DECEMBER 21, 2021

SITUATION AT A GLANCE

6.6 MILLION	823,000	199,949	648,317	610,128
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 – September 2021</i>	<i>IOM – September 2021</i>	<i>IOM – September 2021</i>

- UNHCR continues to provide winterization assistance to vulnerable IDPs and refugees to address heightened needs resulting from harsh winter weather.
- Flooding displaced 150 households in eastern Libya in November.
- The ongoing COVID-19 pandemic is adversely affecting livelihoods and increasing food prices in Libya. With USAID/BHA support, IOM continues to provide health assistance to mitigate the spread of COVID-19.
- UN reports violations of international humanitarian law in the Libyan conflict since 2016.



TOTAL U.S. GOVERNMENT HUMANITARIAN FUNDING For the Libya Response in FYs 2021–2022	USAID/BHA ¹	\$10,424,358
	State/PRM ²	\$29,830,000
	Total	\$40,254,358

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

¹USAID’s Bureau for Humanitarian Assistance (USAID/BHA)

²U.S. Department of State’s Bureau of Population, Refugees, and Migration (State/PRM)

KEY DEVELOPMENTS

Humanitarian Actors Provide Winterization Assistance in Libya

In response to heightened needs due to harsh winter weather, humanitarian actors continue to provide critical winterization assistance to vulnerable internally displaced persons (IDPs) and refugees in Libya. From November 1 to 21, the Office of the UN High Commissioner for Refugees (UNHCR) reached approximately 3,150 individuals—nearly 500 households—with winterization assistance, including winter kits for approximately 2,150 IDPs in Al Khums, Misrata, and Zliten cities, as well as in IDP camps in and near the capital city of Tripoli. Since September, UNHCR has provided winterization assistance to more than 7,400 individuals—nearly 1,600 households—in Central, East, and Tripoli regions, particularly in Murzuq and Tawergha IDP communities.

Flooding in Eastern Libya Displaces 150 Households in November

Flash flooding in eastern Libya displaced more than 150 households during the week of November 8, damaging houses and adversely affecting basic services, resulting in food, health, shelter, and water, sanitation, and hygiene (WASH) needs in the affected areas. In response to the floods, UN agencies, in coordination with the Libyan Humanitarian Relief Agency, local non-governmental organizations (NGOs), and civil society organizations, activated the Rapid Response Mechanism—providing urgent food rations, hygiene supplies, safe drinking water, and winter clothing—to quickly reach affected populations.

IOM Highlights Adverse Socio-Economic Effects of COVID-19

The coronavirus disease (COVID-19) pandemic continues to have negative socio-economic effects on vulnerable populations in Libya, including loss of livelihoods and rise in food prices. A recent International Organization for Migration (IOM) study, based on data collected from nearly 450 people across more than 50 municipalities from April to November, found that day laborers, migrants, and older persons were the most vulnerable to the socio-economic shocks of COVID-19 in more than 40 percent of surveyed municipalities. Loss of livelihoods remains a major consequence of the COVID-19 pandemic, especially for migrants, while day labor was the most affected employment category across nearly 70 percent of the surveyed localities. Moreover, unemployment among migrants remains elevated at 20 percent compared to 17 percent prior to the pandemic. In addition, respondents reported increases in food prices from September to November in approximately 60 percent of surveyed areas, representing an expansion in the prevalence of price increases compared to the April-to-June period when only 40 percent of surveyed areas reported increases.

As of December 15, the UN World Health Organization (WHO) had recorded approximately 379,000 confirmed COVID-19 cases, including 5,561 associated deaths, in Libya since the outbreak began, representing an approximately 10 percent increase in cases since late September. With USAID/BHA and other donor funding, IOM continued to provide COVID-19 assistance to IDPs and migrants in Libya. From December 5 to 11, the UN agency provided COVID-19 outreach sessions for more than 480 migrants, conducted medical screenings for nearly 22,700 travelers returning to Libya, and provided approximately 2,400 medical consultations to IDPs and migrants.

Number of IDPs Continues to Decrease, IDP Return Rate Slows

Nearly 200,000 individuals remain displaced across Libya as of September, significantly less than the record high of 450,000 IDPs recorded in June 2020, according to an IOM IDP Returns Assessment published in November. Nearly half of the individuals displaced since June 2020 have returned to their

areas of origin, IOM reports. From July to September 2021, the number of returnees increased to more than 648,000 people from approximately 643,000 returnees in the April-to-June reporting period; the slight increase in the number of returnees represents a slower pace of returns compared to previous assessment rounds. While the number of remaining IDPs and slowed rate of return demonstrates some improvements to the humanitarian context in Libya, humanitarian needs such as health and protection remain ongoing for vulnerable populations.

Humanitarian Relocation Flights Resume as Migrants Face Poor Conditions

IOM and UNHCR resumed humanitarian evacuation and resettlement flights for migrants and refugees in Libya in October after Libyan authorities suspended the humanitarian flights in early August. Libya remains both a destination and a transit point for migrants from Sub-Saharan Africa and within the region, hosting more than 610,000 migrants as of September and more than 41,000 registered refugees and asylum seekers as of November, according to the UN. The Libyan Coast Guard (LCG) intercepts approximately half of all migrants departing from Libya via the Mediterranean Sea. The UN reported that the LCG intercepted nearly 29,500 migrants and refugees from January to November 2021, a more than 150 percent increase from the total number in 2020. Libyan law criminalizes irregular entry, stay, and exit, providing a basis for apprehension by authorities and transfer to detention centers. Many irregular travelers are unaccounted for after disembarkation and are vulnerable to smugglers, militias, and traffickers. Migrants intercepted by Libyan authorities are held in official and unofficial detention centers where they are often subject to inhumane detention practices and lack access to safe drinking water and health care services. In October, the UN Human Rights Council's Independent Fact-Finding Mission on Libya determined that abuses committed against migrants may constitute crimes against humanity. Relief actors continue to assess conditions and provide critical assistance in detention centers, while underscoring the need for improved Government of Libya-led initiatives to address inhumane detention conditions and ensure that people held in the centers receive adequate food, health, and legal assistance.

UN Reports Violations of International Humanitarian Law in Libyan Conflict

On October 1, the UN released the findings of the Fact-Finding Mission on Libya, which found that all parties to the Libyan conflict—including foreign fighters, mercenaries, and non-state armed groups—had violated international humanitarian law, and some actors had committed war crimes, since 2016. The report underscores the breadth of humanitarian and human rights law violations, including indiscriminate airstrikes that killed dozens of households and destroyed critical health care facilities, as well as damaged an estimated 50 health care facilities in Tripoli in 2019 and 2020. Further, the report identified the presence of abandoned unexploded ordnance leading to civilian casualties, arbitrary and inhumane detention, violence in Libyan prisons on the scale and operation of potential war crimes, gender-based violence, and the abuse of migrants as major factors contributing to the violation of humanitarian law.

In addition, the report investigated attacks against civilians that drove significant displacement. In particular, the report condemned armed actors' direct attacks against civilians in Misrata District's Tawergha town, displacing the entire population of approximately 40,000 people by mid-2011. Destruction of public and private civilian infrastructure and lack of basic services remain significant barriers to return for these individuals to date despite a peace agreement between the Misrata and Tawergha communities; only an estimated 6,900 individuals from Tawergha had returned to their area of origin as of May 2021. Relief actors continue to advocate for development and humanitarian coordination to facilitate safe and voluntary returns for IDPs.

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, WHO, and two international NGO (INGO) partners that provide life-saving services in static and mobile health facilities. USAID/BHA health partners provide medicines, medical supplies, and equipment, as well as training to community health workers providing maternal and child health care and other services. In response to the COVID-19 outbreak in Libya, USAID/BHA is also supporting an INGO partner to provide COVID-19 case management services. As of mid-October, IOM had reached nearly 30,000 migrants and IDPs with COVID-19 awareness trainings and access to COVID-19 screenings. Meanwhile, with State/PRM support, UNHCR and another implementing partner provide primary and emergency health care services to IDPs, refugees, 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 asylum seekers and refugees, supports humanitarian evacuation flights for refugee resettlement, distributes essential relief items, and provides cash assistance to urban asylum seekers and refugees. 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 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 4, 2021, U.S. Ambassador Richard B. Norland reissued a disaster declaration for Libya in FY 2022 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 2022¹

IMPLEMENTING PARTNER	ACTIVITY	LOCATION	AMOUNT
USAID/BHA			
WHO	Health	Benghazi, Al Butnan, Ghat, Al Jabal Al Akhdar, Al Jafarah, Al Jufrah, Al Kufrah, Al Marqab, Misrata, Murzuq, Sabha, Sirte, Tripoli, Wadi Al Hayat, Al Wahat	\$900,000
TOTAL USAID/BHA FUNDING			\$900,000
TOTAL USG HUMANITARIAN FUNDING FOR THE LIBYA RESPONSE IN FY 2022			\$900,000

USG HUMANITARIAN FUNDING FOR THE LIBYA RESPONSE IN FY 2021

IMPLEMENTING PARTNER	ACTIVITY	LOCATION	AMOUNT
USAID/BHA			
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
TOTAL USAID/BHA FUNDING			\$9,524,358
STATE/PRM			
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
TOTAL STATE/PRM FUNDING			\$29,830,000
TOTAL USG HUMANITARIAN FUNDING FOR THE LIBYA RESPONSE IN FY 2021			\$39,354,358

TOTAL USG HUMANITARIAN FUNDING FOR THE LIBYA RESPONSE IN FYs 2021–2022			\$40,254,358
---	--	--	---------------------

¹ Year of funding indicates the date of commitment or obligation, not appropriation, of funds. Funding figures reflect publicly announced funding as of December 21, 2021.

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.
- 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
 - Information on relief activities of the humanitarian community can be found at 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)