

Libya – Complex Emergency

JULY 19, 2022

SITUATION AT A GLANCE

8.2 MILLION	803,000	168,011	673,554	649,788
Estimated Population of Libya	Estimated Number of People in Need of Humanitarian Assistance in 2022	IDPs in Libya	Registered IDP Returns	Migrants in Libya
<i>UN – September 2021</i>	<i>UN – December 2021</i>	<i>IOM – January 2022</i>	<i>IOM – January 2022</i>	<i>IOM – June 2022</i>

- Approximately 803,000 individuals are in need of humanitarian assistance across Libya in 2022, a 36 percent decrease from 2021, when 1.3 million people were in need, according to the UN.
- Access impediments—including bureaucratic, conflict-related, and financial constraints—continued to affect relief operations in May.
- The ongoing conflict in Ukraine and related global market impacts have generated price increases in Libya, exacerbating food insecurity.



TOTAL U.S. GOVERNMENT HUMANITARIAN FUNDING For the Libya Response in FY 2022	USAID/BHA ¹	\$4,745,600
	State/PRM ²	\$14,700,000
Total		\$19,445,600

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

HRP Aims to Reach 400,000 People With Assistance from June to December

Approximately 803,000 people across Libya are in need of humanitarian assistance in 2022, according to the UN's 2022 Libya Humanitarian Needs Overview (HNO), released in June. This figure represents a 36 percent decrease from the 1.3 million people in need identified in the 2021 HNO, due to improving humanitarian conditions in Libya as security conditions enable the returns of internally displaced populations (IDPs) to areas of origin. The total number of individuals requiring humanitarian assistance in 2022 includes approximately 281,000 non-displaced vulnerable individuals, 232,000 migrants, 132,000 IDPs, 115,000 returnees, and 43,000 refugees. In response to continued needs, the UN's 2022 Libya Humanitarian Response Plan (HRP) requests approximately \$114 million to reach approximately 400,000 people—including 120,000 IDPs, 118,000 non-displaced Libyans, 88,000 migrants, 44,000 refugees, and 29,000 returnees—with multi-sector assistance through the remainder of 2022. However, it is anticipated that many of the remaining IDPs in Libya will opt to remain in their place of displacement, where they have established access to employment and basic services, rather than return to areas of origin where access to employment and services is insufficient, relief actors report.

Access Impediments Affect Relief Actor Operations in May

Access impediments continued to affect the delivery of humanitarian assistance in May, with the UN recording 49 incidents adversely affecting humanitarian access during the month—an increase of nearly 50 percent compared with April and the highest number of access constraints recorded since January. Notably, 26 access constraints in May were related to the restriction of the movement of relief agencies, personnel, or goods into and within Libya, due primarily to the challenges international staff experience renewing expired visas or obtaining new visas, according to the UN Office for Coordination of Humanitarian Affairs (OCHA). However, in recent weeks, USAID/BHA partners have reported experiencing improved access conditions, with international staff increasingly successfully obtaining visas. Additionally, financial regulations in place since mid-January continued to affect relief actors' ability to access the cash required to implement programming across Libya in May, with some banks limiting international non-governmental organization (INGO) cash withdrawals to approximately \$215 per day and curbing local and international money transfers. As a result of banking restrictions, humanitarian agencies were unable to withdraw approximately \$1 million intended for humanitarian aid from Libyan banks in May. Beyond bureaucratic and financial impediments, active hostilities and localized conflict affected humanitarian operations in at least three incidents in May. Despite the growing number of overall access constraints, the number of incidents involving violence directed at relief personnel, assets, and facilities remained low in May, with only one such incident reported.

Market Effects of Conflict in Ukraine Exacerbate Food Insecurity in Libya

Conflict-related supply chain disruptions have generated significant price increases in Libya, which imports the majority of its food commodities—including wheat and corn—from Ukraine and the Russian Federation, reducing household purchasing power and exacerbating food insecurity for vulnerable populations. As of April, wheat flour prices in Libya had increased by approximately 23 percent and the price for vegetable oil prices had increased by 26 percent since mid-February, the UN World Food Program (WFP) reports. In Libya, an estimated 511,000 individuals are in need of humanitarian food assistance in 2022, the UN reports. Prior to the February 24 GoRF invasion of Ukraine, wheat exports from the two countries accounted for nearly one-third of the global wheat supply and nearly three-quarters of global sunflower oil supply, according to WFP.

Number of IDPs Continues to Decrease as Returnees Increase

More than 168,000 individuals remained displaced across Libya as of January, significantly fewer than the record high of 450,000 IDPs recorded in June 2020, according to an International Organization for Migration (IOM) IDP Returns Assessment published in March. Meanwhile, as of January, the number of returnees grew by more than 11,500 individuals, increasing to more than 673,500 returnees overall from nearly 662,000 returnees reported in November 2021. Displacement in Libya remains primarily linked to security-related issues and improvements in general security across Libya have prompted many displaced households' return to areas of origin, with 98 percent of key informants citing improved security conditions in their areas of origin as the impetus for returns, according to the March IOM assessment. Meanwhile, it is anticipated that many remaining IDPs will opt to remain in their places of displacement, having achieved some degree of a durable solution to their displacement through economic, social, and political integration into their current communities, relief actors report. The top three priority needs for IDPs—accommodation, food assistance, and access to health services—remained consistent from mid-2021 through January. For returnees, food, access to health services, and emergency relief commodities were identified as the top priority needs.

Libya also remains a destination and transit point for migrants in the region, hosting nearly 650,000 migrants during the February-to-April 2022 period—the highest number of migrants in Libya since April 2020—according to an IOM report published in mid-June. Migrants' primary needs include health services, emergency relief commodities, and water, sanitation, and hygiene (WASH) services. The affordability of food, relief commodities, adequate housing, and essential services remains the main impediment for migrants to fulfill needs in Libya, IOM reports. Additionally, inadequate legal protection for migrants and refugees provides Libyan authorities with a basis for apprehension and detention. Migrants intercepted by authorities are often held in official and unofficial detention centers where they lack access to basic services and humanitarian assistance. Despite severe risks, migrants continue to attempt to cross the Mediterranean Sea: as of July 3, more than 9,400 migrants and refugees had been intercepted and returned to Libya by the Libyan Coast Guard in 2022.

KEY FIGURES



60,000

Number migrants reached with health assistance by a State/PRM partner in FY 2021

U.S. GOVERNMENT RESPONSE

HEALTH

The USG addresses urgent health needs in Libya through support the UN World Health Organization (WHO), the Office of the UN High Commissioner for Refugees (UNHCR), and two 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 coronavirus disease (COVID-19) outbreak in Libya, a USAID/BHA INGO partner is providing COVID-19 case management services. 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. In FY 2021, a State/PRM partner reached nearly 60,000 migrants with life-saving health assistance, including gender-based violence prevention and response, referrals for consultations, emergency mental health and psychosocial support, and core relief items. 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.



3

USG partners providing HCIMA support in Libya

HUMANITARIAN COORDINATION, INFORMATION MANAGEMENT, AND ASSESSMENTS

With USAID/BHA support, OCHA and two INGOs provide humanitarian coordination, information management, and assessments (HCIMA) services in Libya, ensuring that humanitarian response activities in the country are efficient, evidence-based, and targeted.



3

USG partners providing humanitarian protection services in Libya

PROTECTION

State/PRM partner UNHCR provides essential protection services for urban asylum seekers and refugees in Libya. Additionally, two USAID/BHA INGO partners implement protection activities for vulnerable populations in Libya, including 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 approximately 803,000 people in Libya require humanitarian assistance in 2022.
- 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			
Implementing Partners	Health, HCIMA, Protection, Shelter and Settlements	Countrywide, Misrata, Sabha, Tripoli, Wadi Ash Shati	\$3,720,000
OCHA	HCIMA	Countrywide	\$100,000
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
	Program Support		\$25,600
TOTAL USAID/BHA FUNDING			\$4,745,600
STATE/PRM			
Implementing Partners	Food Assistance, Health, Logistics Support, MPCA, Protection, WASH	Countrywide	\$10,600,000
UNHCR	Health, Logistics Support, MPCA, Protection	Countrywide	\$4,100,000
TOTAL STATE/PRM FUNDING			\$14,700,000
TOTAL USG HUMANITARIAN FUNDING FOR THE LIBYA RESPONSE IN FY 2022			\$19,445,600

¹ Year of funding indicates the date of commitment or obligation, not appropriation, of funds. Funding figures reflect publicly announced funding as of July 19, 2022.

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)