

HUMANITARIAN RESPONSE TO THE LIBYAN CRISIS



IOM • OIM

February - December 2011 Report



INTRODUCTION



Returnees registration
in Faya, Chad

Libya has witnessed unprecedented civil unrest since 16 February 2011, when demonstrators took to the streets to protest economic and social conditions, and demand that Muammar Gaddafi resign.

The ensuing level of violence and insecurity has prompted massive exodus of Third Country Nationals (TCNs)¹ from Libya into the neighbouring countries. Of the 796,915 migrants² crossing the border to flee violence, the majority travelled into Egypt (263,554)³ and Tunisia (345,238)⁴. Some of them fled to other neighbouring countries such as Chad, Niger and Algeria, while boats full with migrants reached the shores of Italy and Malta. Other than returnees going back to their home countries neighbouring Libya, TCNs represented more than 120 nationalities and the 45% of the total flows.

Since the onset of the crisis, one of the largest migration crises in modern history, the International Organization for Migration (IOM) was actively involved in the coordination and provision of various types of humanitarian assistance to all the categories of evacuees displaced by the crisis. However, the primary focus of IOM was to provide immediate evacuation, return and humanitarian assistance to TCNs.

In response to various requests from governments of TCNs' countries of origin and in cooperation with the host governments in Egypt and Tunisia and the UN High Commissioner on Refugees (UNHCR), IOM organized the registration, delivered immediate humanitarian relief and provided repatriation transport to more than 300,000 TCNs.

The majority of the IOM beneficiaries were nationals of North-African, Sub-Saharan and South-Asian countries. Fleeing migrants often arrived at the borders in dire and destitute conditions, without sufficient assets and means to organize and finance their own way home. During the first two months of the evacuations, it was mostly the young able-bodied men

who were first to cross the borders. However by May 2011, IOM observed that more women, children, elderly and those with medical conditions were crossing the borders as well.

In order to prevent a potential secondary humanitarian crisis at the border areas (of Tunisia, Egypt, Niger and Chad), and at the request of concerned governments, IOM quickly organized and implemented a complex set of stabilizing activities and projects. The initial assessment and resource mobilization was followed by the provision of full scale direct humanitarian assistance, return assistance and evacuation activities. In terms of humanitarian assistance IOM's activities were focused on the provision of food, non-food items (NFIs), healthcare and psychosocial support and other necessities for the affected population in the camps, transit centres and en route to the airports and seaports. Whereas other health partners focused their assistance at transit sites only, IOM's comprehensive migration crisis response endeavoured the inclusion of a migration health prevention and care package to provide a continuum of health and psychosocial services to migrants during the pre-departure, transit, travel, arrival and initial reintegration phases.

The return assistance and evacuation activities were rapid, large and complex. They consumed most of the IOM human and financial resources made available for the institutional response. The evacuation component consisted of several inter-linked sets of activities such as registration, travel health assessment, provision of ground transport from the borders and transit centres to the airport and seaport facilities and organization and provision of group charter flights and individual travel arrangements for the individual returnees. All of these logistical aspects were coordinated through the newly founded IOM/UNHCR joint Humanitarian Evacuation Cell (HEC). Overall, the above-mentioned activities were carried out in close cooperation and coordination with UN agencies, NGOs

CONTENTS

and other partners and, last but not least, host governments that ensured safe and timely processing and assistance.

The extraordinary dimensions of this IOM humanitarian intervention (multi-country, high volume, extreme needs) necessitated the almost complete engagement of several departments within the organization at headquarters, regional and country levels as well as a high number of consultants and volunteers over an extended period of time.

While most of the humanitarian focus was placed on the provision of safe, dignified evacuation and transport assistance, including temporary shelter, food and health care, IOM also conducted independent profiling exercises/needs assessments of returnees in several receiving countries⁵ in order to estimate the impact upon vulnerable families and communities and to plan and implement reinsertion and reintegration programmes aimed at facilitating the early stages of integration of returnees. Extracts from the above mentioned exercises, providing socio-economic profiles of migrant workers in Libya, are given below at the beginning of each country section.

The current report looks into IOM's engagement in assisting migrants and displaced population since the start of the Libyan crisis to the end of year 2011. Firstly it provides an insight into Libya, reporting on the activities, operations and challenges faced in gaining access to the besieged locations and reach to the stranded migrants. Secondly, it analyses IOM's response and activities in four of the Libya's neighbouring countries, namely Tunisia, Egypt, Chad and Niger. Italy and Malta are covered as well having received since the beginning of the crisis more than 27,700 migrants. Additionally, given the high number of returnees and the variety of nationalities fleeing the conflict, IOM assisted in the repatriation of thousands of TCNs in different countries worldwide. Therefore, IOM's response in some of the most representative countries in terms of number of returnees assisted is also briefly described. Acknowledgments and details of donors' financial contributions and in-kind donations are provided in the last section of this report. Finally, conclusions are drawn and a way forward suggested.

¹In the context of the Libyan Crisis, "Third-Country Nationals" refers to migrants who crossed the border from Libya to find refuge in a country that is not their country of origin.

²Cross-border movement statistics only refer to migrants leaving Libya. It doesn't take into account Libyan nationals who were going back and forth into Libya.

³This figure comprises both Egyptian nationals and TCNs.

⁴This figure comprises both Tunisian nationals and TCNs.

⁵IOM profiling exercises/needs assessments: Bangladesh, Burkina Faso, Chad, Ghana, Mali, Niger, and Senegal. Unpublished. Available from IOM, Geneva, upon request. Socio-economic Profile of Egyptian Migrants Returning from Libya Due to the Crisis: Sample Analysis. IOM, Cairo. Available at: http://www.egypt.iom.int/Doc/111006_Profiling_Egyptian_Migrants_FINAL.pdf

INTRODUCTION	2
--------------	---

STATISTICS	4
------------	---

LIBYA	5
-------	---

Highlights	5
Benghazi	7
Misrata	8
Tripoli	8
Sebha	9

TUNISIA	10
---------	----

Highlights	10
Cross-border Movement	11
Evacuations	11
Humanitarian Assistance	12
Health and Psychosocial Assistance	12
Protection	13

EGYPT	14
-------	----

Highlights	14
Cross-border Movement	15
Evacuations	15
Humanitarian Assistance	16
Health and Psychosocial Assistance	16

CHAD	17
------	----

Highlights	17
Cross-border Movement	18
Evacuations	19
Humanitarian Assistance	19
Health and Psychosocial Assistance	19

NIGER	20
-------	----

Highlights	20
Cross-border Movement	20
Evacuations	21
Humanitarian Assistance	21

ITALY & MALTA	22
---------------	----

Cross-border Movement	22
Humanitarian Assistance	22

OTHERS	23
--------	----

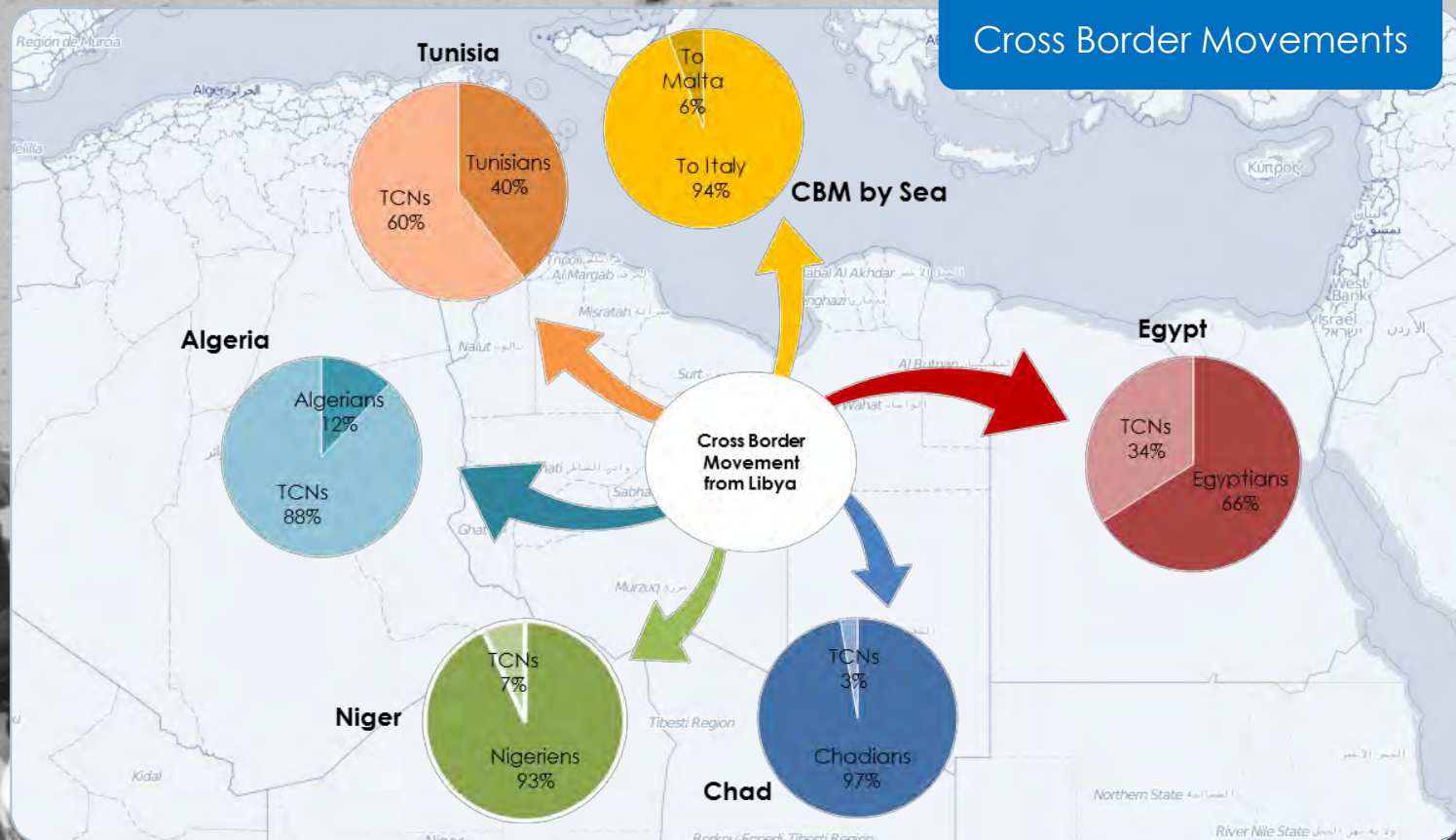
FINANCIAL STATEMENT	27
---------------------	----

CONCLUSIONS	29
-------------	----

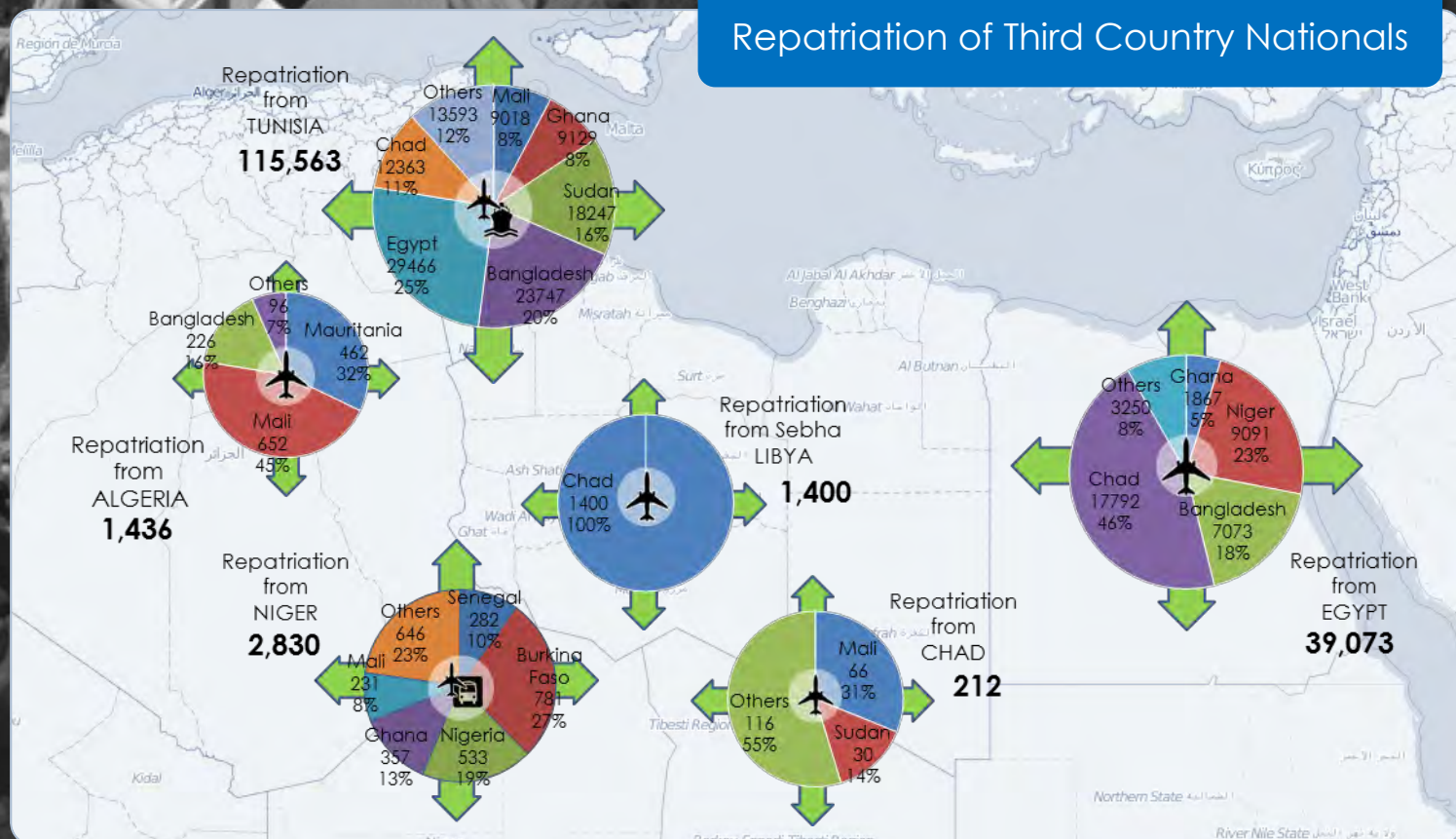
WAY FORWARD	30
-------------	----

STATISTICS

Cross Border Movements



Repatriation of Third Country Nationals



LIBYA



Prior to the onset of the conflict, according to the local, regional and international media and migrants' own embassies, there were approximately 2.5 million migrant workers in Libya. Over the first months of the crisis, as the security situation in Libya deteriorated and casualties gradually increased, most countries called upon their citizens to leave. As of the end of 2011, it is estimated that almost 800,000 people, including migrant workers, have fled the country. Given that national capacities in important sectors ranging from health to construction are extremely limited, their mass exodus left wide gaps in the national labour market and, in turn, disrupted services considerably.



Situation in Misrata port during the evacuation

HIGHLIGHTS

The humanitarian emergency response implemented by IOM to respond to the civil unrest that caused an unprecedented outflow of TCNs and Libyan nationals, has been considered by many as a tremendous effort as well as a great success. Coordinating between IOM offices in over sixteen countries, IOM was efficiently able to respond by working together to ensure that the programme operated swiftly and humanely at the most critical phase of the crisis. Working in partnership with different actors, including humanitarian organisations, the Libyan authorities, consular officials, NATO and the private sector, IOM managed to obtain the needed clearances and to get access to the migrants.

Among the first responders, IOM managed to resume operations in the field as soon as the security situation allowed for the presence of humanitarian relief workers.

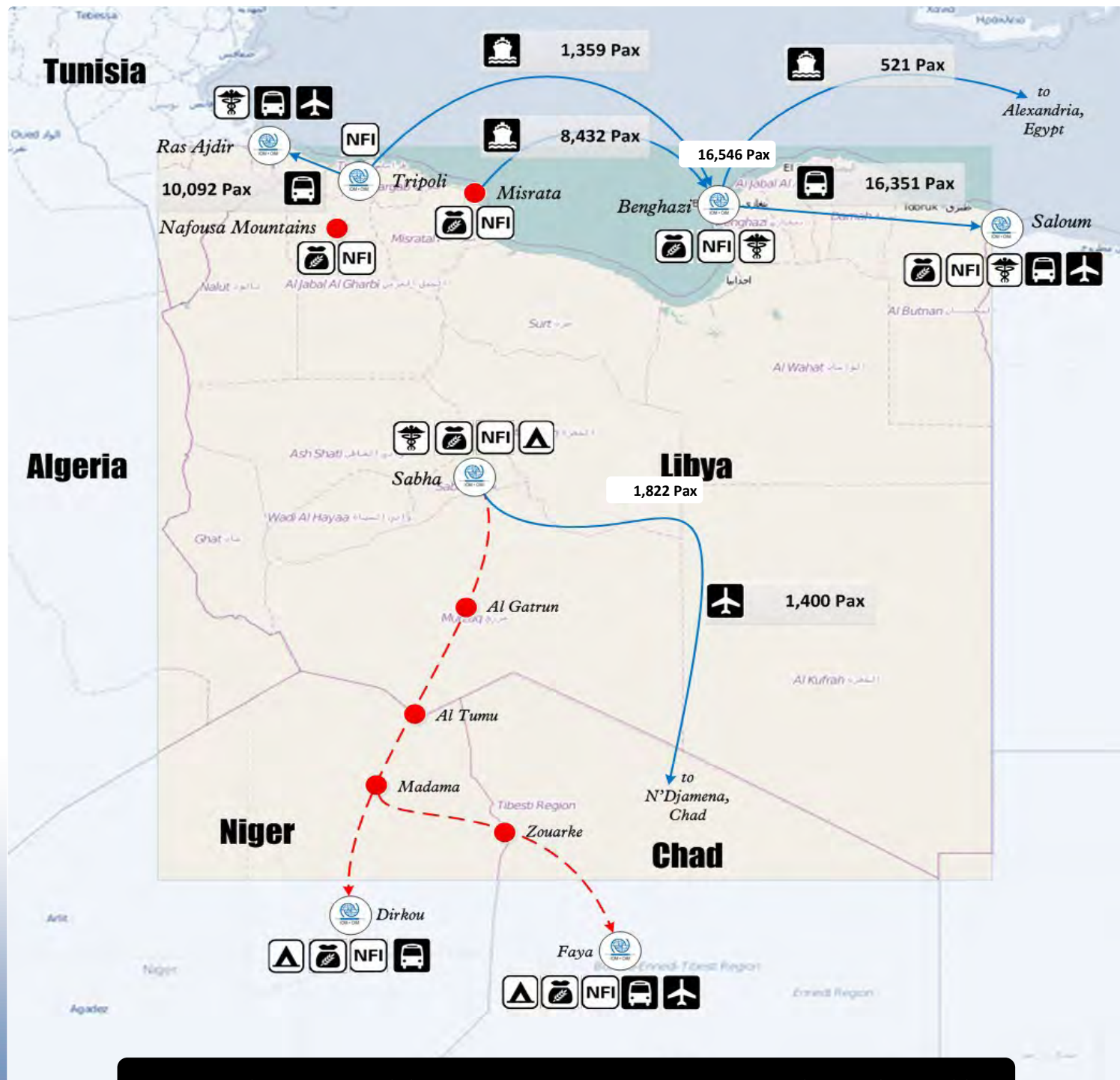
The first evacuations took place in early March from Benghazi which was the first city controlled by the rebellion. Thanks to the prompt networking and ability to target key actors in the field, IOM managed to establish a fruitful relationship with the National Transitional Council (NTC), later turning Benghazi into an operational hub for other operations in eastern Libya.

From mid-March through August, IOM sent 15 vessels to assist migrants stranded in the city and in the harbour of Misrata.

After obtaining clearance, IOM eventually reached the cities of Sebha and Gatroun in southern Libya where it was confronted with vulnerable migrants in dire need of humanitarian assistance. While IOM was involved in remotely supporting consulates in transporting by bus their nationals from Tripoli and surrounding areas to the Tunisian border for onward evacuation, violence in Tripoli made it crucial for IOM to urgently evacuate migrants stranded in the port area and to start registering candidates for evacuation to their countries of origin.

By the end of September through early October, sporadic battles were still going on in Syrte and Bani Walid, while most of the country was under the control of the NTC and already planning its reconstruction and political transition. Following the end of the conflict in Libya in late October, a new Government was formed on 22 November marking the end of the emergency phase of the operation. Since December 2011, with the return of the international community in Tripoli, needs assessment missions and coordination meeting have resumed and are held regularly.

According to the latest figures, as of 31 December, 796,915 migrants had crossed the Libyan borders; 318,007 were TCNs assisted by IOM.



Schematic map describing IOM emergency response operation to Libya crisis



When IOM's first engagement in the emergency operations started within the country, Benghazi, Libya's rebel stronghold, was under heavy attack from the pro-Gaddafi forces, including repeated air strikes and shelling. At that point, the probability that Benghazi would fall to the pro-Gaddafi forces was very high. Indeed, the multi-state coalition's military operations began shortly after, focusing its air strikes on Benghazi in addition to Tripoli. The NTC had not yet been established and the interlocutors at the port were only Libyan combatants, who were controlling the port area and its access.

IOM was notified that several thousands of migrants were stranded in Benghazi, in an extremely critical and life-threatening situation. It was reported that many of these migrants were sub-Saharan Africans who, as it was documented throughout the crisis, faced an even higher risk of violence than nationals from other countries. IOM therefore decided to proceed with the first emergency sea evacuation operation, which was carried out under the most extreme circumstances but eventually managed to transport 521 passengers on board of IOM's first chartered vessel to Alexandria, Egypt. The very volatile security environment placed all of those involved at a very high risk.

By 5 April, 128 persons were evacuated by land to Salloum at the Egyptian-Libyan border where onward transportation to final destinations was arranged. This also included travel

health assistance, including rapid pre-departure fitness-to-travel health checks, psychosocial support, facilitating health care to hospitals and providing medical escorts where needed.

Forced to leave the country at the end of March due to deteriorating security conditions, IOM remotely managed to organize convoys from Benghazi to the Egyptian border, until eventually it resumed its presence and activities on 13 April.

During the reporting period, migrants continued to arrive to Benghazi from other coastal cities mainly on board of IOM chartered vessels. IOM team on the ground, together with the Libyan Red Crescent, disembarked the migrants and provided continued medical care and escort to the Benghazi transit centre. Through this centre, managed by the Libyan Red Crescent, IOM provided support to the national health system which was greatly depleted with the departure of qualified foreign medical staff (mostly Egyptians and Filipinos). Once the migrants were ready to travel, IOM organized transportation assistance by bus to the Egyptian border for a total of 16,546 migrants. Onward transportation to final destination was then organized by IOM Egypt.

IOM Benghazi's operational hub has been also used since September as a base for needs assessments in the south-eastern region of Libya including the Kufrah district, a traditional transit town for smugglers and human traffickers.



Situation during the evacuation in Benghazi

MISRATA

Since the very beginning of the hostility between rebels and governmental forces, the coastal city of Misrata was targeted by long and violent fights that seriously undermined the standards of living of the population and heavily limited access to basic services and goods, such as food and non-food items, and medical care. For over 4 months, the siege made it extremely difficult to ensure the provision of goods, the access of medical staff to the population in need and the evacuation of those willing to leave the city.

Amid the sound of artillery, bombs and gunfire, thousands of migrants found refuge in the port of Misrata, living in fear and inhuman conditions, in the open air or abandoned containers. On some occasions, underwater mines and heavy shelling of the port forced IOM charted vessels to stay off-shore or to suddenly leave the harbour, uncertain if it would have been possible to continue carrying out its sea evacuation missions to rescue migrants stranded in the city.

Between 13 April and 21 August, 15 evacuations transporting a

total of 8,432 stranded migrants (from 30 different nationalities) were operated by IOM between Misrata and Benghazi. Onboard the ships IOM also evacuated a total of 503 medical cases, including wounded civilians, from the besieged city to the comparatively safer environment in Benghazi where they were able to benefit from appropriate medical treatment. Onward transportation from Benghazi to Salloum (Egypt) for processing to final destinations was then organized for these migrants. In addition to sea evacuation operations, between September and October, IOM organized air evacuation missions from Misrata to Benghazi airlifting a total of 266 migrants.

IOM arranged for the transport of humanitarian supplies donated by community members from Benghazi to the people of Misrata. In total 2,100 tons of humanitarian aid, such as food, NFIs, medical supplies (including 8 ambulances) were delivered to the besieged city along with medical personnel to supply hospitals and medical centres in Misrata.



Situation during the evacuation in Misrata

TRIPOLI

With Tripoli falling under the control of the NTC at the end of August, IOM promptly responded by initiating humanitarian evacuation by sea and by air for migrants who expressed the wish to leave the city. The security conditions rendered the operation difficult, with limited mobility due to the presence of snipers and of many check-points throughout the city and on the way to the seaport.

The first rescue mission, started on 21 August, had to remain anchored off the Tripoli coast for several days until it was finally able to dock after security conditions in and around the

port area had sufficiently improved. A wide range of nationalities were represented among the 263 foreigners evacuated, including Egyptians, Filipinos, Canadians, Algerians, Moroccans and Italians. Upon arrival, the evacuees were taken to the transit centre in Benghazi where they were accommodated before being taken to the Egyptian border at Salloum from where IOM provided them with onward travel assistance to return to their home countries.

As several thousands of migrants registered with IOM for assistance and following the same successful operational

procedure, two additional ships, with much larger capacities, were swiftly organized in the following days.

Overall, through sea evacuations, IOM managed to assist a total of 1,359 stranded TCNs from Tripoli. All the chartered vessels, with IOM medical staff on board, also carried medical aid and humanitarian workers from various organizations to Tripoli.

In the month of September, IOM, together with OHCHR and human rights organizations, voiced concern over the plight of sub-Saharan migrants stranded in the city and in its outskirts, who were facing the risk of being arbitrarily targeted and of becoming victims of human rights violations.

Therefore, from late September onwards, thanks also to the reopening of Tripoli office, IOM managed to assist a total of 1,876 TCNs from 13 different nationalities through a combination of charter and commercial flights. Among these a caseload of 332 Nigeriens was repatriated in November via charter flight from Tripoli directly to Niamey.

Prior to repatriation, Nigerien nationals were transferred by the IOM team to the safety of a jointly managed transit centre

situated in the Tripoli suburb of Tweisha, where they were provided with basic accommodation, hot food, hygiene kits and access to medical services at an on-site IOM health clinic.

The occupation of the Tweisha centre by militia, in early December, added extra complexity to IOM repatriation operations. It prompted IOM to negotiate the use of an aircraft hangar at the Mitiga Airport Military Base to accommodate travel ready migrants for the night prior to their departure.

The constant contact with consular authorities in Tripoli helped detecting and assisting important caseload of stranded migrants with road transport to the Tunisian border point in Ras Adjir. From 11 April to the end of September, 10,092 migrants were evacuated from Tripoli to Ras Adjir by bus and further provided with onward evacuation to their countries of origin.

Furthermore, the IOM team worked closely with NTC counterparts on the implementation of an interim strategy for the protection and repatriation of stranded migrants in Tripoli and in the southern town of Sebha.

SEBHA

As early as May 2011, thanks to the close contact with Chadian and Nigerien consular authorities, IOM was informed of the presence of up to 25,000 migrants stranded in the southern cities of Sebha and Gatroun with no means or in no physical condition to pursue the difficult journey through the desert to Niger or Chad.

In July, IOM embarked on a challenging mission to the south of Libya. It was the first humanitarian mission to take place in this area since the beginning of the outbreak of widespread violence. After an initial assessment in Gatroun and Sebha, IOM identified thousands of migrants, mostly Chadians nationals, who were trapped between fighting forces.

IOM established a way station in Sebha, providing all necessary support (food, NFIs, medical assistance, registration, shelter) to the stranded migrants. Given that an evacuation by road at that time was too risky, and in light of the health conditions of the migrants, IOM opted for an air evacuation. In July, a total of 1,400 most vulnerable migrants were evacuated to N'Djamena, Chad.

The evacuations by land from Sebha to Chad were the biggest IOM operations towards the end of the year. The smooth implementation of almost weekly convoys of 15 to 19 trucks

for a total of about 4,000 migrants evacuated, required the constant liaison with local authorities and the diplomatic community to assure the proper and timely documentation of the migrants. The reinforcement of processing facilities along the route of the convoy with IOM staff was another important logistical aspect to minimize any risk of problems.

The presence of a larger than expected caseload of migrants in need of assistance triggered the appointment and training of an IOM doctor on pre-embarkation checks and health referral mechanisms to assist TCNs who needed to be medically stabilized/treated. IOM also interacted with other agencies and stakeholders on the ground on potential support to the health services which included but were not limited to psychological support.

Later in December, authorities in Sebha requested an IOM team redeployed to that location to complete the rapid assessments which had started in November, including the mapping of vulnerable migrants and Internally Displaced People (IDPs). The local authorities also requested IOM's partnership for rapid initial distribution of NFIs to approx 8,000 migrants and IDPs.

TUNISIA



Of the Tunisians returning from Libya, the majority were working-age migrants who returned to live with their families in rural areas. Most of them worked as labourers in Libya and some managed to bring back small savings. Once savings have depleted and, with small possibilities to be employed locally, the migrants may, in the medium term, become an economic burden to their families. Not only is there growing concern for increasing unemployment and additional burden on households, but families are also likely to suffer a substantial loss in their income since they were predominantly depending on remittances sent from Libya.



IOM-chartered Vessel transporting stranded Egyptian migrant workers from Sfax, Tunisia

HIGHLIGHTS

Tunisia experienced an upsurge in immigration since the Libyan crisis started in early 2011, after which nearly 350,000 fled Libya via the Tunisian border in the course of the year (including 136,749 Tunisian returnees).

Because of the proximity of the Tunisian border to Tripoli and other Libyan cities, TCNs and Libyans flocked to the main border points of Dehiba and Ras Adjir where camps were set up.

Tunisians generously welcomed migrant workers, refugees and asylum seekers coming from Libya, despite their already limited resources. Prompt collaboration with the authorities as

well as donor support to sustain this massive emergency evacuation limited the risk for the humanitarian crisis to deteriorate.

As of 31 December 2011, the vast majority of TCNs had either returned to their country of origin or been resettled in third countries as refugees. IOM played an active role in the management of these extraordinary inflows of migrants at the border, carrying out a number of activities in strict coordination with the Tunisian authorities, UNHCR and other UN agencies.

CROSS-BORDER MOVEMENT

From the beginning of the crisis to 31 October, when the Tunisian government stopped issuing data on border crossings, a total of 345,238 Tunisians and TCNs fled Libya through the Tunisian border.

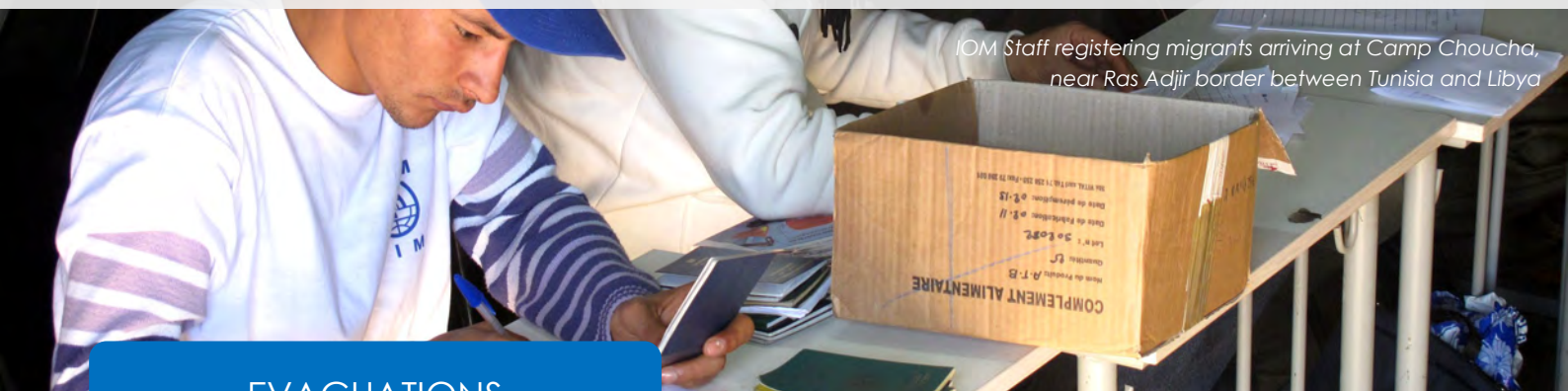
Although the majority of TCNs crossing into Tunisia were Egyptians and Bangladeshis, IOM also registered the arrival of nationals from Benin, Cameroon, Ghana, Guinea, Mauritania, Mali, Niger, Nigeria, Senegal, Sierra Leone and Togo. Flows of TCNs were mainly composed of single young men who had lost their job when the conflict started paralyzing Libya's territory.

The first three months of the crisis witnessed massive cross border movements reaching 7,000 arrivals on 7 March. At its peak, the camps set up at the border accommodated up to 20,000 TCNs. In June, flows decreased by two thirds (1,795 people per day on average) to reach a low of 144 people on 28

August. From November to December 2011 the number of crossings (3,387) through the south Tunisian border of Ras Adjir substantially decreased.

In October and November, due to the fact that the Tunisian Border Authorities denied entry into Tunisia, a total of 162 TCNs remained stranded in a no man's land - a zone in between the Libyan and Tunisian border. IOM provided evacuation, medical assistance, NFIs and food to those migrants and assured their safe transportation to Choucha and Al Hayat camps.

Land transportation was continuously provided by IOM between the border and camps and between the border and the airport with the assistance of teams working 24/7 to organize movements and travel health assistance as required.



IOM Staff registering migrants arriving at Camp Choucha, near Ras Adjir border between Tunisia and Libya

EVACUATIONS

By the end of December, IOM evacuated a total of 115,563 persons from Tunisia on board of 1,008 charter or commercial flights. TCNs evacuated from Tunisia represented 48 nationalities including Egyptians (25%), Bangladeshis (20%) as well as sub-Saharan Africans (51%).

Regular evacuation of TCNs has been absolutely essential in maintaining order at the border with Libya. In order to swiftly respond to the large-scale arrivals IOM chartered 552 flights from Tunisia. At the height of the evacuation from 14 to 19 March, almost 4,000 persons were evacuated every day, with a peak on 15 March of 4,596 evacuees on board 22 charter flights.

During the Libyan crisis, TCNs, departing from Djerba, Tunisia had more than 672 tonnes/2,330 m³ of unaccompanied

baggage which had to be carried on specially provided cargo flights at a cost in excess of USD 1 million.⁶ The majority of people fleeing the conflict in Libya were economic migrants who carried along all their worldly goods as leaving such items behind represented a considerable financial loss. However, since airlines regulation does not allow more than 20-30 Kg for each passenger, migrants were forced to leave part of their belongings behind.

Despite challenges at the time in monitoring population flows, IOM was still able to maintain the rapid evacuation of TCNs back to their countries of origin including provision of medical escorts as needed, thereby freeing up space for arriving migrants and limiting deterioration of the humanitarian situations and minimizing incidents.

⁶ These figures do not include the baggage that the passengers took with them nor those moved by the Egyptian and Sudanese authorities by their own aircraft, and bi-lateral flights provided by the US and others.

HUMANITARIAN ASSISTANCE

IOM worked to ensure that all the migrants stranded were helped as quickly and effectively as possible during their waiting time before evacuation. In cooperation with UNHCR, which assumed camp management responsibilities, a registration system was established to facilitate the process of identifying vulnerable cases as well as to distinguish TCNs who wanted to return from those with a refugee status or wishing to apply for asylum. TCNs were subsequently hosted in Al Hayat transit camp while refugees and asylum seeker in Choucha camp.

During the reporting period, IOM carried out NFIs distribution in Choucha Camp and Al Hayat Camp and local hospitals distributing a total of 7,749 NFIs. Distribution of hygiene kits containing towels, undergarments, soap and shampoo, toothbrush and toothpaste, antibacterial gel and pads for women was organized in September to the entire population of TCNs hosted at the Al Hayat camp. Water and food was also provided to migrants stranded in the no man's land and TCNs transiting through Djerba airport.



Situation in Djerba airport during the embarkation on repatriation flights

HEALTH AND PSYCHOSOCIAL ASSISTANCE

Since the beginning of the crisis, IOM Health Unit in Tunisia conducted many health-related activities including almost 79,000 rapid pre-embarkation health checks to ensure the fitness-to-travel of departing migrants and families both at the camps and at the Djerba airport. Additionally, IOM provided facilitated health care referrals to local hospitals, psychosocial counselling, psychological first aid, medical escorts when necessary and continuity of care upon arrival at destination.

As part of the health assistance, IOM and its partners established and implemented a tuberculosis diagnostic and case management strategy in Choucha. Between March and November, 30 of 70 suspected cases were diagnosed with tuberculosis, which if left untreated could have infected a

significant number of people in the camp, during travel and upon return home. IOM's assistance ensured everyone diagnosed with tuberculosis received Daily Observed Treatment (DOT) during a required period of time before cleared for onward travel. IOM provided those cases with TB medications and a referral note to ensure a continuum of treatment when back at home. IOM supported the Tunisian Ministry of Health by seconding a medical doctor at the Regional Medenine Hospital TB Ward to assist with daily case management of TB patients who needed hospitalization. Daily food supplements for tuberculosis patients and psychological support were also provided.

PROTECTION

Although the number of arrivals decreased substantially towards the end of the year, IOM witnessed an increase in the vulnerability of the TCNs, including more medical and emotionally distressed, vulnerable families and unaccompanied minors (UAMs). Since December 2011, IOM has focused its activities on facilitating resettlement (interviewing, providing transport and medical assistance) and protection of UAMs and vulnerable cases.

The unaccompanied minors' referral mechanism was set up between the UN Children's Fund (UNICEF), UNHCR and Save the Children since early June. Cases of UAMs were referred to an IOM protection team. In total 90 children have been reunited with their families as of December 2011.

UNHCR approached IOM to seek assistance in providing return and reintegration support to all rejected asylum seekers: currently 300 cases in Choucha Camp. Due to the increasing number of rejected cases, counter trafficking awareness raising sessions and sessions to prevent the dangers of irregular migration may be intensified to avoid the risks of migrants and vulnerable people leaving the camp irregularly into Libya or towards the coasts of Italy and Malta.

In response to the humanitarian needs of refugees fleeing Libya to Tunisia, the U.S. Refugee Admissions Program (USRAP) pledged to assist UNHCR with an open number of slots for refugees on the border, to be processed by the IOM Resettlement Support Center (RSC) for North Africa and the Middle East. As of the end of December, IOM in close coordination with UNHCR and supported by the Government of Tunisia, interviewed a total of 629 cases over 920 individuals in Choucha camp.

Since the beginning of the crisis, IOM organized the movement and resettlement health assessments of 803 refugees (73% Eritreans, 13% Somalis, 14% other 8 nationalities) to resettlement countries (mainly to Canada, USA, Switzerland and Norway) under UNHCR's resettlement programme.



Migrants inside a bus transporting them from Choucha camp to Djerba airport to continue with their flight home

EGYPT



Prior to the crisis, Egyptians represented the largest nationality of migrants within Libya, with a total number of approximately one million migrant workers. The bulk of the returnees fall mainly within the age group between 20 and 30 years of age, hold a secondary technical education and work mainly in the construction sector. These men usually have a wife and children back in Egypt to whom they regularly send money mostly through informal channels (either through friends returning back or when visiting home).



IOM Staff assisting stranded migrants in Salloum, at the border between Egypt and Libya

HIGHLIGHTS

Violent conflict in neighbouring Libya stemming from countrywide political turmoil resulted in thousands of Egyptians migrants and TCNs fleeing the country as soon as the conflict began. Because road travel from Benghazi toward the eastern part of Libya was relatively safe, Egypt was one of the countries which experienced the strongest impact, having received by the end of December a total of 263,554 people.

In February 2011, thousands of women, men and children fled escalating civil violence in Libya and sought food, water and shelter in Salloum, on the Egyptian-Libyan border. IOM was one of the first organizations to arrive in Salloum and to provide emergency assistance. On 24 February, IOM arrived at the border for an assessment mission while on 27 February the first movement took place out of Salloum.

IOM worked with the Egyptian government and the army to

offer the necessary help to people coming back from Libya. IOM also liaised with and provided logistics support to consular officials deployed in Salloum to issue travel documents to undocumented nationals stranded in the no man's land at the border crossing.

One of IOM's main objectives in Salloum was to quickly decongest the border through evacuation assistance in order to limit the impact of the crisis on Egypt and prevent the onset of a humanitarian crisis. IOM's role was to assist TCNs to return home by providing an inter-linked set of activities such as registration, medical clinic services, health referrals to nearby hospitals, psychosocial assistance, travel health assessments and medical escorts, provision of ground transport from the borders and transit centre to the airport and individual airport assistance to migrants.

CROSS-BORDER MOVEMENT

As early as 22 February, while fighting was still ongoing in Benghazi, some 500 km from the border, Egyptians as well as TCNs and Libyans started fleeing Libya towards the border with Egypt, often by their own means.

A majority of the first crossings were Egyptians returning home with 46,700 returnees arriving between 22 and 25 February and a peak of 12,500 arrivals on 25 February. This prompted

humanitarian organizations into action to assist TCNs and Egyptian authorities and to respond to countries' requests to support evacuation of their nationals.

As of December 2011, IOM, in cooperation with the border authorities, recorded 263,554 persons, including 173,873 Egyptians (66%) and 89,681 TCNs (34%) crossing the border.



Situation at Salloum, the border between Egypt and Libya

EVACUATIONS

While nationals from countries benefitting from a regime of free movement with Egypt (mainly nationals from Middle East countries) did not have to wait for visa processing at the Salloum border crossing point, other nationalities remained stranded in the no man's land sometimes for up to two weeks since the Egyptian authorities only cleared TCNs with valid Laissez-Passer (LP) and confirmation that they had been booked on an IOM chartered flight. IOM established on-site reception facilities (in the immigration compound) where TCNs were registered and provided with assistance, including medical care and referral.

Since February, IOM worked with consular officials and Egyptian immigration authorities to provide stranded migrants with the travel documents and authorization to enter Egypt and continue their onward journeys. Regular evacuation of TCNs was absolutely essential in maintaining order at the Salloum border. By the end of December, IOM had repatriated from Egypt a total of 39,073 persons. Most of the TCNs evacuated from Egypt were Chadians (46%) or Nigeriens (23%).

Like in Tunisia, low luggage allowance forced IOM to store 38 tonnes of unaccompanied baggage at both Marsa Matruh and El Alamein airport, while arranging for their shipment to the migrants' countries of origin.

During the last months of 2011, the number of migrants crossing into Egypt drastically diminished while, refugees, asylum seekers and vulnerable cases in need of special protection increased. By the end of the year there were almost 2,000 Persons of Concern (PoCs) registered with UNHCR at the transit camp in Salloum. Due to the envisaged long term stay of these groups at the border, UNHCR planned to set up a camp in the vicinity of the transit centre to accommodate and assist them prior to their resettlement.

Like in Tunisia, by December 2011, IOM Resettlement Support Center (RSC) interviewed a total of 578 cases over 775 individuals in Salloum. The approved cases will be provided with health assessments for resettlement that is part of their post adjudication processing and movement to the final destinations in the United States via Cairo.

Since the beginning of the crisis, IOM moved out of Salloum transit camp 181 refugees (from Sudan, Eritrea, Ethiopia, Somalia and Chad) to resettlement countries (Finland, Norway, Sweden and Switzerland) under UNHCR's resettlement programme.

HUMANITARIAN ASSISTANCE

In coordination with the local authorities, UN and civil society partners, IOM provided humanitarian assistance, including food, water, blankets and hygiene kits, to migrants stranded in Salloum. Since 26 February to 30 April, IOM distributed a total of 110,015 meals provided by the World Food Programme (WFP) and the Mohammed Bin Rashid Al Maktoum Charity to TCNs stranded at the border as well as to those departing

Salloum. In addition, 91,200 litres of water and 377 blankets were distributed by IOM during the first months of the emergency.

With no possibility to set up camp like facilities in the no man's land, IOM and humanitarian partners had to overcome difficulties to evaluate fluctuating needs and adjust assistance as well as to track vulnerable cases.



Stranded migrants at Salloum, the border between Egypt and Libya

HEALTH AND PSYCHOSOCIAL ASSISTANCE

Since 8 March, an IOM Health Unit was established at Salloum border, with a team of expert physicians, nurses and trained counsellors to assist in mitigating the health risks posed to migrants fleeing the conflict. In close collaboration with the Egyptian Ministry of Health and Population, and partners, IOM provided health care to more than 34,000 TCNs evacuees stranded on the Egyptian-Libyan border.

IOM also provided pre-departure health checks for refugees accepted into Egypt, hospital referrals, and medical escorts for returnees. Still based in Salloum, IOM continues to work around the clock delivering psychosocial and medical support to migrants, refugees and asylum seekers, in an effort to cope with current health concerns. One of the major public health concerns, resulting from a lack of safe hygiene, was communicable diseases, particularly in children.

Psychosocial support services were integrated in the care and treatment including psychological first aid, counselling and mental health referrals to specialized centres. As the only agency providing healthcare to migrants in Salloum, IOM medical staff also actively supported the mobile and fixed clinics from the Egyptian Ministry of Health.

In September, more than 1,000 migrants and refugees at the Salloum border crossing were treated for a scabies infection by the IOM medical team. In all, 400 persons were found to be infected with scabies – an itchy and highly contagious skin disease – but as a precautionary measure, all migrants and refugees, were given treatment. Meanwhile IOM provided information on how to best prevent the recurrence of scabies infections.

CHAD



According to the profiling exercise implemented by IOM, the majority of returnees are male migrants in the age range 18-35. Most of the returnees have never completed primary school and mostly sought work in Libya in sectors in high demand of unskilled labourers, like construction and agriculture. The majority spent 1 to 5 years in Libya, but some families were in Libya for 30 or more years with their children born in Libya as well. Most of the returnees indicated their intention to remain in Chad and not re-migrate to Libya or any other country. The Government of Chad with support from IOM is exploring options and seeking donor support for social, psychosocial and economic reintegration, to limit the negative impact of the cuts in remittances created by the crisis.



HIGHLIGHTS

The first evacuation of Chadian nationals from Tunisia and Egypt started on 7 March 2011. Overall, 87,189 Chadians have fled the Libyan crisis either returning by air or by road. Many Chadians or TCNs fleeing the Libyan crisis have been exposed to violence. Some have reported being imprisoned; others have lost loved ones in the conflict. Moreover, the journey itself to Chad was often extremely hazardous and dangerous for the migrants.

As of 31 December, IOM through its network of way stations and transit centres has provided critical humanitarian assistance including shelter, health care, psychosocial counselling and support and onward transportation assistance

to almost 90,000 Chadian migrants and TCNs stranded in Libya who wanted to return home.

According to an IOM assessment on the “Impact of the Returnees from Libya on their Home Communities”, most returnees returned empty-handed from Libya and were no longer able to send remittances home. They are now hosted in their families in a context already exacerbated by extensive drought periods over the past 2 years. Enhanced vulnerabilities include economic exposure, emerging food crisis, health and psychosocial impact, as well as unsuccessful integration of the returnees in the labour market. All these call for strong support measures.

CROSS-BORDER MOVEMENT

IOM's presence in the north of the country was established at the beginning of the crisis. Under often very dire and stressful conditions in the middle of the Sahel desert, IOM staff built shelters, drilled and rehabilitated wells, supported food distribution and pioneered registration exercises.

In close cooperation with the Chadian Immigration Department and Local Authorities, IOM employed a tracking and registration mechanism in order to gain a greater insight on profiles of Chadian returnees and TCNs as well as to reliably register all arrivals since March 2011.

The first people fleeing Libya through the border were registered at the end of March; a month after the fighting began. Overall, until the end of year 2011, a total of 57,223 Chadian returnees and TCNs crossed the Libyan-Chadian border. The majority crossed into Chad in the north via Niger especially during the last quarter of the year. Most of the Chadians and TCNs travelling by road from Libya arrived in deplorable conditions, in a state of dehydration and fatigue, having spent as many as 20 to 30 days on the road and in transit points within Libya attempting to return to Chad.

Moreover, they faced additional difficulties as most trucks could not cross directly into Chad due to extensive mine fields in the mountain regions between Chad and Libya. As such, trucks took detours through Niger, thereby lengthening the journey and creating more obstacles (and costs) for the returnees. Others chose another route further east to the

small town of Ouniangakebir, Chad. In order to facilitate the journey through the North, IOM established a way station in Zouarke on the way to Faya and in Ounianga on the way to Kalait. In Faya and Kalait transit centres, IOM offered medical, psychosocial, registration and protection services. Transit centres also facilitated the onward transportation and initiated the process of contacting embassies and consulates to assist the homeward journey of TCNs.

IOM Chad had a spike in arrivals in November and December 2011, with the arrival of three separate 15-to-19 truck convoys chartered by IOM Chad from Sebha (Libya) to N'Djamena (Chad). These convoys, carrying approximately 4,000 returnees, passed through the regular corridor that other returning migrant trucks used (Sebha → Gatroun → Zouarke → Faya → N'Djamena → final destinations).

As part of the November and December truck convoys from Sebha, IOM Chad received several hundred Nigerians. After registration, IOM transported the migrants by convoy to Maiduguri, in north-eastern Nigeria and facilitated their onward journey from Maiduguri to their final destination.

Consistent with trends in the region, Chad has seen a steady decrease in arrivals of Chadians and TCNs in the last months of the year, as compared to early/mid 2011. In parallel, a slight proportional increase in the number of female returnees and families was registered in the last months of 2011.



IOM doctor providing medical assistance to migrants

EVACUATIONS

At the way stations and transit centres each individual underwent a medical fit-for-travel exam, prior to registration in the IOM database. The vast majority of returnees did not have any valid travel documents; registration was therefore conducted through an interview. Returnees were asked if they were willing to participate in a more in-depth profiling exercise, which evaluated migration intentions, level of education, needs to establish a livelihood in Chad as well as protection concerns.

A total of 36,272 migrants were assisted with in-country transportation, after their registration. For the most vulnerable migrants who were unable to undertake the journey by truck, IOM provided 14 domestic flights from Faya to Abeche and N'Djamena, supporting the immediate transportation of 1,822 returnees. Medical cases arriving by road were also evacuated

by flight from their initial point of arrival.

While on one front IOM has been carrying out emergency operations to assist large number of persons who crossed the border with Libya in northern Chad by road, on another front, IOM staff has also been assisting returnees evacuated by air from Egypt, Tunisia, Libya and Niger. From those countries a total of 31,559 Chadians have been returned on board of 218 international flights organized by IOM.

In addition, a total 1,293 TCNs have been supported by IOM with land and air transportation to their country of origin, while others have travelled with their own means, particularly TCNs arriving in Abeche and returning to Sudan. IOM also ensured TCNs obtained valid travel documents.

HUMANITARIAN ASSISTANCE

The elaborate network of way stations set up at entry and transit points provided humanitarian assistance including water, food, medical care and shelter. Five way stations were established at points of entry in Salal, Mao, Zouarke, Ouniangekebir and in Nouku.

In cooperation with the Mines Advisory Group (MAG) IOM facilitated a rapid intervention team for mine incidents. Through this partnership 55 danger areas were identified and 35 danger areas cleared and closed; 1,246 explosive remnants of war were destroyed.

HEALTH AND PSYCHOSOCIAL ASSISTANCE

The IOM health and psychosocial teams provided post arrival assistance as well as psychosocial support for returning Chadians, ensuring care and referral to the local health facilities before onward transportation to their communities of origin.

As part of the assistance provided to returnees from Libya, IOM established a Cholera Awareness-Raising Campaign, distributing soap, information brochures and providing a briefing to all returnees transiting in N'Djamena. In Faya, Abeche and Mao, IOM has included an outreach component to support the local hospitals with food and medication to provide free medical care to returnees.

Psycho-social activities such as counselling, recreation, sports, games, language study, arts, crafts, and theatre have been

organized in the N'djamena transit centres for the TCNs population, and for transiting Chadians when buses or planes arrived. These efforts include protection measures with IOM screening cases and identifying protection concerns – victims of violence, unaccompanied minors, separated families, medical vulnerabilities, etc – which are confidentially documented and appropriately assisted.

As of the end of December, there were 43 migrants – of which 37 Ethiopians – with protection issues residing in the transit centre in N'Djamena. IOM also provided direct reintegration assistance to 30 unaccompanied minors.

NIGER



The massive return of Nigerien nationals, most of them with very limited resources, has posed an extra burden on the communities of return which are often vulnerable to food insecurity. According to the profiling exercise conducted by IOM in August 2011, most returnees were males aged between 20 and 40 years. The return of these individuals is a factor of impoverishment for the host communities, exacerbated as well by the sudden end of the financial transfers those migrants used to remit to the benefit of their communities of origin.



Arrival in Agadez, Niger

HIGHLIGHTS

As of 31 December, a total of 96,721 Nigeriens arrived in Niger, either via the Libyan-Nigerien border, where IOM had already a well-established presence in the town of Dirkou, in the north of the country, or by plane from Libya's neighbouring countries at first and directly from Tripoli during November and December.

Toward the end of the year, IOM had to speed up evacuations because of protection fears for stranded migrants who were exposed to arbitrary detention and harassment, and also because of the onset of cold temperatures and related health risks, since most migrants were living in damp and squalid conditions with no access to water, electricity and medicine.

CROSS-BORDER MOVEMENT

From 24 February to the end of 2011 the number of migrants that crossed the Libyan-Nigerien border was 86,629 of which 93% were Nigeriens (80,681) and 5,948 TCNs. During the first three months, the number of arrivals reached up to 2,500 migrants per day. As of June, the flow of migrants fleeing violence decreased to an average of 200 arrivals per day and became more irregular, with entire days with no new arrivals. Given the volatility of the situation, IOM had to remain alert in case of a new surge in arrivals.

The arrival inflows into Niger have decreased significantly in the last quarter of 2011. The decrease noted at the borders (Dirkou, Assmaka and Arlit), with migrants arriving by road, was mainly due to IOM organizing regular flights from Tripoli. In fact, over 1,000 migrants were repatriated during the months of November and December through several charters flights organized by IOM. IOM is still monitoring arrivals and tracking, registering and providing assistance to migrants in need at the 3 entry points (Dirkou, Arlit and Niamey).

EVACUATIONS

Most vulnerable cases were provided by IOM with on-ward transportation within country for a total of 13,291 Nigeriens and TCNs assisted as of 31 December. In parallel, IOM organized land and air travel for 5,300 TCNs - of which 2,470 by bus and 2,830 by airplane - who were repatriated to their countries of origin.

The employment of military convoys to escort stranded migrants between Dirkou and Niamey was made necessary due to the lack of security conditions along the routes. Organized every three days on average when daily arrivals in Dirkou were high, the frequency significantly diminished in August, resulting in people having to stay longer at the transit

centre before continuing their southward journey to their villages.

IOM's different country offices involved and its longstanding experience in providing coordinated travel assistance to migrants, made it possible to further repatriate stranded Nigeriens who fled Libya towards neighbouring countries. A total number of 16,040 Nigeriens landed at Niamey airport since the outset of the crisis, most of them coming from Egypt (57%) and Tunisia (38%) but also from Algeria, Turkey and Chad. The peak of arrival was in May when about 6,000 Nigeriens returned in one month.



Registration of arriving migrants in Dirkou, Niger

HUMANITARIAN ASSISTANCE

Having been exposed to extremely difficult conditions while crossing the desert atop of trucks, migrants arriving at the border were provided with primary services while those in need of medical care were further assisted *in situ* or referred to specialized health facilities.

During the period of reporting 45,494 meals and water were distributed to vulnerable migrants in the centres of Dirkou, Arlit, Agadez and Niamey for a total of 26,221 beneficiaries. Additionally, in Dirkou, Arlit, Niamey, were distributed 25,465 hygiene kits (each containing washing powder, soap) every 3 days and 192 jerry cans procured on a case-to-case basis for those migrants who had no recipients to transport water for the journey from Dirkou to Agadez. Accommodation in the

shelters was offered to 9,055 most vulnerable returnees, with particular attention to women, children and elderly.

Medical assistance was provided to 6,793 migrants, while those in need of special medical care were referred to the local health centre or, in cases of medical evacuation, to the hospital in Agadez.

Increasing concerns that the situation in the country could worsen, given the already vulnerable state of Niger's food security and the cut on remittances previously sent from Libya, urged IOM to advocate for reintegration support, as well as community stabilization programmes in order to help absorb the high number of returnees.

ITALY & MALTA



The main countries of origin of people leaving Libya to Italy and Malta were Bangladesh, Burkina Faso, Côte d'Ivoire, Congo, Eritrea, Gambia, Ghana, Guinea, Liberia, Mali, Niger, Nigeria, Pakistan, Senegal, Somalia and Sudan (almost no Libyan nationals). Among these people there were also families, minors and women with children. Migrants arrived on un-seaworthy vessels, often carrying more than 600 people, leading to a number of tragedies at sea.

CROSS-BORDER MOVEMENT

As of 31 December, 25,935 migrants arrived in Lampedusa from Libya since the start of the crisis. Other migrants arrived in Sicily or in Linosa and, according to the government's figures, a total of 27,000 people arrived in southern Italy (i.e. Lampedusa, Linosa and Sicilian coasts) from Libya. If migrants arrived from Tunisia are also considered, the overall figure rises to 62,000 people.

With respect to Malta, the last quarter of 2011 has not seen major arrivals, bringing the total to 1,574 migrants landed since the beginning of the crisis in Libya.

As the situation on the small island of Lampedusa was critical

and tense, rapid transfers to other migrant reception centres elsewhere in Italy have been essential. At December 2011, around 19,000 migrants are currently hosted in over 900 reception facilities. All of them asked for asylum, and many of them will not be granted with any kind of international protection since their countries of origin are not Libya, but mainly sub-Saharan countries.

While in Malta the US Resettlement programme continued to screen cases referred by UNHCR, during the period under review, IOM assisted the relocation to Germany of 147 persons from Eritrea, Ethiopia, Somalia and Sudan.

HUMANITARIAN ASSISTANCE

With boat landings taking place during the day and night, IOM and partners worked in shifts to ensure assistance was provided 24 hours a day.

In Lampedusa and in six reception centres in Apulia and Sicily, in southern Italy, IOM teams, in coordination with UNHCR and Save the Children provided general legal information and counselling to migrants to help Italian authorities to manage mixed migratory flows. The Lampedusa Reception centre was closed in October.

Moreover, to help avoid tension, IOM worked with some of the community elders among the groups of migrants to explain the rules and procedures of the centre and advice on behaviour around the small island which has a population of only about 5,000 people.

IOM continued to work in reception centres to provide newcomers with induction sessions, recreational activities,

cultural orientation, medical screenings, counselling cultural orientation, language and skill training and movement assistance. Specific individual counselling and assistance was offered to vulnerable cases such as unaccompanied minors, victims of trafficking, asylum-seekers, and others.

At the end of September IOM together with UNHCR, and the Italian Civil Protection carried out a monitoring exercise in some of the second reception facilities - located throughout the Italian territory - hosting migrants fleeing the conflict in Libya. The purpose was to analyze the organization system put in place at regional level and the reception conditions at local level. The information gathered by the monitoring exercise will be used to support the implementing parties and, where necessary, improving the standard of accommodation provided to migrants.

During the Libya crisis a total of almost 50 countries were involved in assisting returnees and the operations were not limited to the evacuation countries but extended to over 45 reception countries for third-country nationals. Over 320 international and national IOM staff were involved in moving more than 300,000 TCNs to various countries. Of these the 80% were provided with transportation assistance to African countries and 16% to Asian countries.

OTHERS

Ghanaian returnees receiving food assistance upon their arrival

GHANA

Since February 2011, the crisis in Libya caused a massive return of economic migrants to Ghana, with over 18,500 migrants returning back to their country of origin and receiving assistance from IOM in cooperation with the Government of Ghana. IOM successfully evacuated and provided travel assistance to 12,034 Ghanaian migrants fleeing the conflict in Libya. The majority of them returned to the central areas of Brong Ahafo and Ashanti regions.

IOM worked with the Government of Ghana to carry out the appropriate humanitarian aid intervention. Assistance included meeting all returning migrants on arrival, provision of food and drinks, and health support as necessary.

Many of the returnees returned to Ghana showing obvious signs of psychological stress and trauma. Although the Government, through the National Disaster Management Organisation (NADMO), the Ghana Health Service (GHS) and the Ghana Immigration Service, IOM and other key partners were quick to respond to the situation by providing support for evacuations, many of the returnees returned to Ghana without employment and no access to health insurance. This sudden and massive return of a large number of migrants had negative consequences for migrants, their families, governments and communities of origin.

In mid 2011, IOM and the United Nations Development Programme (UNDP), in collaboration with NADMO undertook a

study in the Brong Ahafo region, where the majority of migrants returned, in order to assess the socio-economic characteristics of the returnees and their reintegration needs.

According to the study most of the returnees are single men between the ages of 20 and 35 years and had migrated through irregular means to Libya, evidenced by their lack of appropriate travel documents. These peculiar characteristics of the target group bring to the fore the importance of addressing the root causes of irregular migration, especially through the creation of employment/income-generation avenues and community-based capacity building activities.

Moreover, most of the migrant workers were sending remittances back home, which had beneficial impact on households and communities. In the current situation, the economic impact of the loss of remittances has had serious implications and has urged the Government and other concerned stakeholders to look at preparing communities to adapt to sudden changes in their income generating activities.

To this end IOM is supporting the development of cooperatives (mostly agricultural) in communities of return; information outreach on the risks and realities of migration through community events and media outreach including the realization of a documentary on the returnees from Libya and the reintegration assistance.

MALI

As of December 2011, IOM in Mali had provided return assistance to 11,248 Malians who prior to the crisis were economic migrants working in Libya. Almost 41% of the returnees were employed in the construction sector, 23% in agriculture and the remainder as drivers, mechanics, petty traders or dockers in the informal sector.

90% of the returnees were males between the ages of 20 and 40 and had basic level of education. The majority of the returnees assisted by IOM in Mali came from Gao and Kaye regions. The returns had an overall negative impact on the lives of thousands of individuals living in these regions affected by chronic food insecurity and unemployment in communities

which depended on remittances.

In response to the pressing needs of the returnees, IOM launched a reintegration project - RAVEL - to assist returnees from Libya in Kita and Gao. The project was designed to assist the returnees and their communities to form cooperatives and to provide them with grants to promote their reintegration process. Four cooperatives comprised of 25 members were established in Kita in Kaye region and three in Gao region. A total of 175 migrants from Gao and Kita were targeted for direct assistance. In addition IOM also established partnerships with NGOs to provide counselling and mentoring to the identified beneficiaries.

IOM staff registering returnees upon arrival for further reintegration assistance

SUDAN

IOM began chartering planes from Djerba to Khartoum to carry Sudanese migrant workers and their families who had managed to escape to Tunisia in mid March 2011, as part of the IOM Humanitarian Evacuation programme assisting migrants of all nationalities fleeing the conflict in Libya.

IOM also assisted hundreds of Sudanese nationals to return on commercial flights from Algeria, Chad, Egypt, and Tunisia. Some Sudanese benefited from IOM assistance by ship from Misrata to Benghazi, and land transportation from Benghazi to Salloum in Egypt, and from Egypt by road to Sudan. Three cargo flights were also chartered to carry the 142 tonnes excess baggage from Djerba to Khartoum, and 2 tonnes of additional baggage was carried on commercial flights.

By the end of the year 18,390 people had been assisted on 127 charter as well as commercial flights to return to Khartoum. 48 South Sudanese who had been evacuated from Libya to Khartoum by IOM earlier in the year were assisted to fly from Khartoum to Juba on 22 December on a charter flight also taking extremely vulnerable individuals.

Upon arrival in Khartoum IOM team ensured smooth passage through admission procedures and in some cases medical reception, initial treatment and escort to medical facilities. Substantial efforts were also made by the Government to assist returnees fleeing the unrest in Libya.



Bangladeshi returnees arrival in Bangladesh

BANGLADESH

Since the outbreak of the political and civil unrest in Libya up to December 2011, IOM provided direct travel assistance to 88% of the 36,683 Bangladeshi nationals who have been repatriated to Bangladesh. Given the large number of Bangladeshi nationals at the transit camp in Tunisia during the height of the crisis, two operations staff and one medical officer from IOM Dhaka were deployed there on a temporary basis to assist in the processing prior to travel. Upon their return to Bangladesh, IOM Dhaka provided round the clock assistance at the airport to facilitate registration and immigration processing. An “Expatriates’ Welfare Desk” was set up to collect information in order to create a database of Bangladeshi workers returning from Libya. In addition, IOM Dhaka set up a medical corner at the airport to provide immediate medical assistance to returnees with medical condition.

According to a profiling exercise IOM conducted, most returnees were males and 66% of them were aged between 26 and 35. In Libya Bangladeshi migrant workers used to be employed mainly in the construction sector or to work as carpenters, masons, rod binders and labourers.

In May 2011, the Government of Bangladesh decided to provide each of the returnees with a one-time cash grant of BDT 50,000 (approximately USD 650) to ease the burden of their reintegration back into society, through a USD 40 million loan accorded by the World Bank. IOM Dhaka developed and implemented the reintegration programme for all 36,683 returnees. The cash disbursement programme started in June 2011 and after a comprehensive in-person verification process, eligible returnees were transferred the cash grant directly to their accounts. As of 31 December 2011, 36,047 returnees have been contacted for follow-up.

PAKISTAN

During the Libya crisis, a large number of Pakistanis safely returned home with IOM's assistance. The Government of Pakistan and different Humanitarian Organizations helped stranded Pakistanis in evacuating Libya and returning to Pakistan. Along with others, Pakistanis also fled the violence area of Libya to neighbouring countries such as Egypt, Tunisia, Algeria and Turkey where transit camps were set up for these migrants to accommodate them until their departure to home countries.

IOM repatriated a total of 778 migrants to Pakistan through special charter and commercial flights. Pakistani nationals were provided assistance upon arrival at Islamabad airport. Given the vulnerability of this caseload special care was taken by IOM staff to ensure that the returnees were provided help

and support and properly welcomed upon arrival in order to reduce their feeling of humiliation of returning home empty-handed.

For every group, IOM Islamabad's airport staff ensured that the immigration officials at the airport were properly informed about the arriving passengers and the fact that they were travelling under IOM auspices. All the returnees were facilitated through the immigration formalities and the formal interviews by respective officials. During the entire process of these returns, Ministry of Foreign Affairs and Immigration Authorities of Pakistan extended their full support to the Pakistanis for their safe return to their homeland.

PHILIPPINES

The recent Libyan crisis affected some 26,000 Filipino migrant workers in Libya. Overseas Filipino Workers (OFW) in Libya were engaged in oil refinery, engineering, household, and nursing care work, significantly contributing to the economy and welfare of Libya.

As the situation deteriorated, the Department of Foreign Affairs (DFA) raised alert level 4 in Libya, ordering the mandatory evacuation and repatriation of Filipino workers from the country, mostly at the expense of the Government of Philippines. Filipino workers who were rescued from the most vulnerable situations were provided shelter and assistance within the Philippines embassies in Tripoli and Cairo. Upon the request of the Government and in close coordination with the DFA and embassies of the Philippines, as well as IOM offices in the region, IOM assisted in the evacuation and repatriation of 903 OFWs through a combination of sea, air and land transportation. As per the Overseas Workers Welfare Administration (OWWA) – a governmental labour agency – a total of 10,116 OFWs returned from Libya.

Upon arrival at Manila airport, IOM Manila, DFA, OWWA, the Office of the Vice President, and other governmental agencies were present to provide reception assistance. The returnees were accommodated in a halfway house where they were screened, debriefed, and provided onward transportation to their final destination. As a reintegration measure, OWWA granted PHP 10,000 (USD 230) to every Filipino who returned home due the unrest in Libya.



Filipino migrant and her newborn returning to her home country

FINANCIAL STATEMENT

By mid-March 2011, IOM and UNHCR jointly appealed to donors for more funding and logistics support to assist the large numbers of desperate migrants arriving on a daily basis in Tunisia, Egypt and in neighbouring countries. Prompt funding and in-kind support from many countries followed. This and extensive cooperation with all countries and parties involved allowed IOM to not only strengthen and scale up its life-saving evacuations by air from neighbouring countries, but also to begin land and sea evacuations from inside Libya as fighting raged.

After the fall of Tripoli, a 30-day Action Plan was endorsed to cover September. As of 1 October, the Common Humanitarian Action Plan (CHAP) covered for the residual humanitarian needs in 2011.

for the period from February 2011 to 31 December 2011

Contributions

in US Dollar

Government of Australia	March/April/June 2011	(AUD 6,500,000)	6,766,178
Government of Austria	May 2011	(EUR 250,000)	357,654
Government of Bangladesh	June 2011		12,064,301
Government of Canada	April 2011		3,730,565
Government of Chad	April 2011	(XAF 15,000,000)	32,668
Government of Chile	March 2011		15,000
Government of the Czech Republic	April 2011	(CZK 2,500,000)	143,513
Government of Finland	June 2011	(EUR 500,000)	712,251
Government of Germany	May/August	(EUR 1,500,297)	2,145,326
Government of Greece	May 2011	(EUR 50,000)	71,531
Government of Ireland	April/July 2011	(EUR 1,000,000)	1,419,533
Government of Italy	June 2011	(EUR 500,000)	712,251
Government of Japan	March 2011		1,000,000
Government of the Republic of Korea	April 2011		300,000
Government of The Netherlands	June 2011		1,250,000
Government of Norway	March/May 2011	(NOK 22,000,000)	3,953,598
Government of Sweden	July 2011	(SEK 900,000)	139,276
Government of Switzerland	March/April 2011	(CHF 1,500,000)	1,654,932
Government of The United Kingdom	March/April/May 2011	(GBP 6,000,000)	9,679,930
Government of the United States of America	Feb/Mar/May/July 2011		27,500,000
Central Emergency Response Fund (CERF)	March/May 2011		4,375,947
EC Directorate General for Humanitarian and Civil Protection (ECHO)	March/April/June/August	(EUR 19,296,000)	27,120,263
The Mohammed bin Rashid Al Maktoum Charity and Humanitarian Foundation	March 2011		42,029
Vox Relief Group Dubai and AOG USA	March 2011		10,000
Zakat Foundation	March 2011		50,000
Miscellaneous	July 2011		744

Total Resources in US Dollar:

105,247,490

Expenditure

Staff & Office costs	14,835,257
Operational costs: Transportation (Air/Sea)	68,226,620
Operational costs: Other operational cost (such as NFIs, transit assistance, health assistance)	10,153,546

Total Expenditure in US Dollar:

93,215,423

Balance of resources carried forward at 31 December 2011:

12,032,067

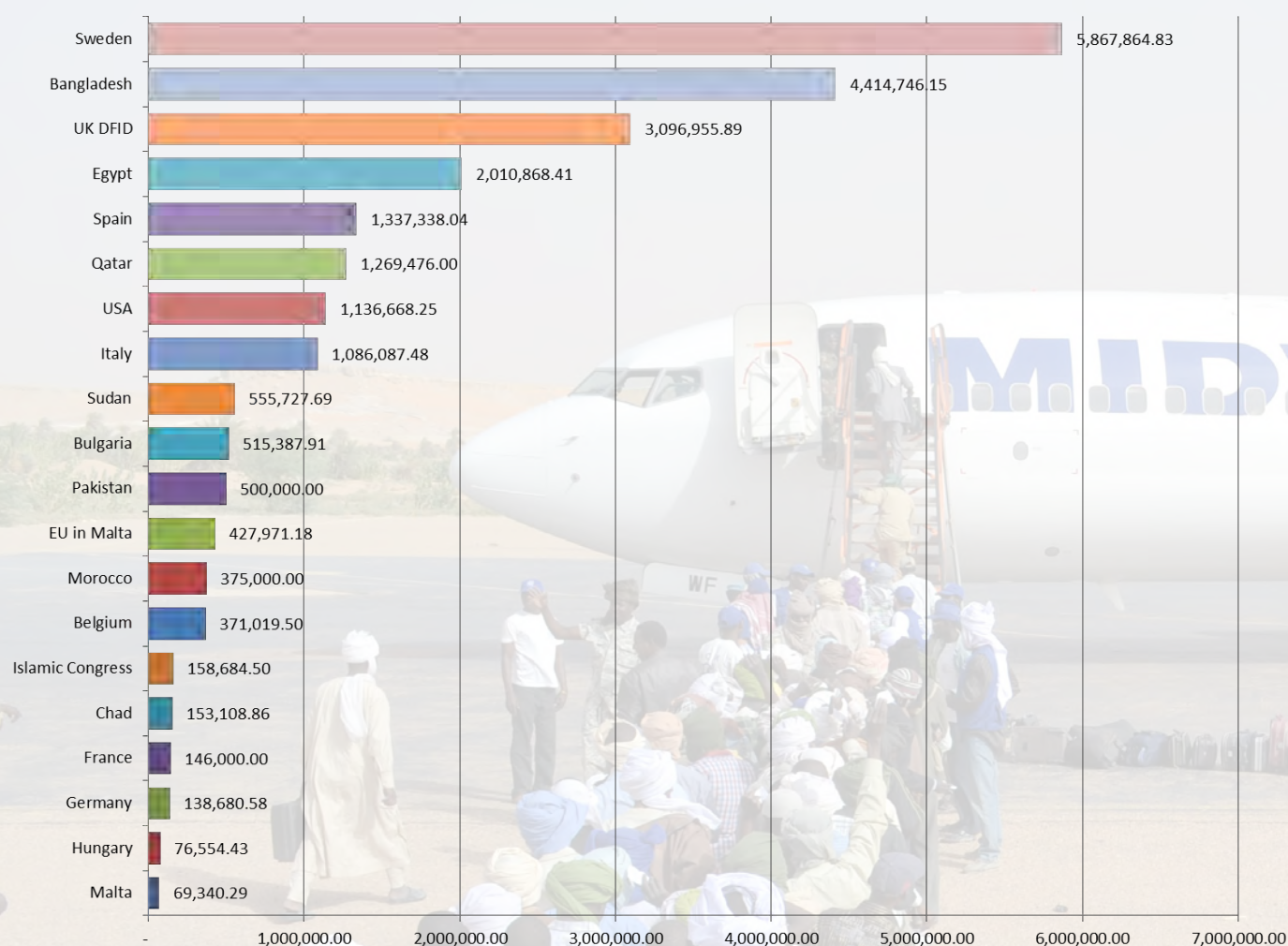
Committed to ongoing operations

11,836,355

Uncommitted resources at 31 December 2011

195,712

In-Kind Contributions



CONCLUSIONS



Situation in Abeche transit centre in Chad

The scope of the Libya crisis was perhaps one of the most unique as the immediate surge of cross border movements and the scale of operations have been extraordinary. It was a very complex logistics operation, not only because of the sheer numbers of TCNs in need of humanitarian assistance, but also of the number of countries involved in the evacuations.

When compared to other humanitarian operations involving movement, the scale of the operation becomes even more evident. During the Kosovo crisis for example, IOM operated around 600 flights over a period of 2 years, while in Libya approximately 700 flights left over a couple of months. During the Lebanon crisis in 2006, approximately 12,000 migrants were evacuated over 1.5 months while for Libya evacuation operations IOM airlifted more than 14,000 returnees in 3 days only (from 15 to 17 March).

In this type of highly logistical operations, complex operations must be carried out in a short time span, putting enormous pressure on coordination of each individual steps of the process, from coordination and registration at the border, to health screening, support to camp management, transport to the airport and sometimes escort to destination, with reception and further transportation within destination countries.

The complexity of the entire chain of activities that enables the movement and assistance of people, from securing funding, ensuring caseloads to contracting of flights, arranging reception at the destination airports and facilitating reintegration in receiving countries,

demand a high level of expertise, coordination, flexibility and communication.

However, IOM's approach went beyond immediate humanitarian response and evacuation operations by engaging in continued assistance provision, a more comprehensive planning, resourcing and long-term intervention for the massive numbers of returnees, their families and communities.

In fact, in parallel with the provision of transportation assistance, IOM simultaneously focused on needs assessments, profiling and reintegration, and contributed as well to inter-agency coordination by participating into several assessment missions, last but not least, the UN-led inter-departmental mission on the impact of the crisis in Libya on the Sahel region, in December 2011.

However challenging the circumstances were, IOM was able to respond quickly and efficiently to the fluid situation and to the challenges that it encountered during the most intense months of the crisis. But most importantly IOM successfully responded to the needs of migrant workers and refugees - women, men and children, elderly and those with special needs - who, caught by the sudden outbreak of the fighting were forced to abandon their houses, their worldly belongings and their sources of income for a difficult journey towards their home countries, where many eventually found even more difficult situations. This flexibility, promptness and efficiency have allowed IOM to be perceived by many as very effective in responding to sudden onset disasters and new complex emergencies.

WAY FORWARD



The dramatic events in Libya essentially triggered an acute migration emergency at a sub-regional level. So far, those large outflows have been successfully addressed, thanks first and foremost to the open border policies of neighbouring countries that have allowed hundreds of thousands of migrants to cross into Tunisia, Egypt, Algeria, Niger, Chad and Sudan.

It is also because those countries kept their borders open and provided generous humanitarian assistance, including through their Red Crescent societies and local population, that a full-fledged humanitarian and migration crisis was averted. This remarkable policy decision allowed IOM and its partners to set up an unprecedented humanitarian evacuation programme for hundreds of thousands of stranded African and Asian migrants.

Although the emergency phase can be considered over with the fall of the Gaddafi regime, the massive return of migrant workers to their homes, most of them with very limited resources, has posed an extra burden on the communities of return which are often already overstretched and vulnerable. Additionally, the great outflow of migrant workers from Libya has created a vacuum in the country of specialized manpower, being professionals mainly foreigners.

Needs assessments, profiling exercises as well as assessment missions conducted by IOM, revealed that the return of these individuals is a factor of impoverishment for the host communities that face constant challenges such as frequent crop and agricultural failures, food insecurity, malnutrition, lack of economic opportunities, insufficient health infrastructure and educational services, and social exclusion, exacerbated as well by the sudden end of the financial transfers those migrants used to remit to the benefit of their communities of origin. In some regions, host communities face the risk of conflict, the prevalence of criminal acts and violence.

IOM has therefore designed programmes to support the Governments' efforts to respond to the Libyan crisis and, in particular through the implementation of reintegration activities for returnees and community stabilization activities.

As mentioned above, an innovative response to these pressing issues has been developed by Bangladesh, which has recently signed an agreement with IOM to provide reintegration grants to some 36,000 Bangladeshi migrant workers who fled the violence in Libya and returned home. The agreement will



hopefully help returnees cushion the hardship and help them resume a productive economic life.

In the aftermath of the conflict, several IOM programs were reactivated in Libya to address the surge in irregular migration such as the Assisted Voluntary Return and Reintegration programmes for stranded migrants (RAVEL), the Prevention and Management of Irregular Migration Flows from Sahara Desert to Mediterranean Sea (SAH-MED), Improving Migrants' Protection through Awareness and Capacity Support (IMPACT) and Enhancing the Judiciary's knowledge of Human Trafficking through targeted trainings (MEPI).

Furthermore, a programme due to start in 2012 has been designed to establish the pre-conditions required to enable smooth transitions and comprehensive and sustainable recoveries in Libya, Egypt and Tunisia. More specifically, the proposed programme will seek to enhance migration management in Libya by strengthening capacities and mechanisms to address labour market gaps through human capital development and regular migration including, in particular, in areas and sectors critical to Libya's transition and recovery. This programme will also support the Government to review and strengthen migration-related policies and

legislation in Libya as well as national capacities in the management of migration flows. At the same time, this programme will seek to stabilize communities at risk including those which suffer high unemployment pressures and/or are struggling to absorb returnees.

Overall, a comprehensive response to the challenges posed by the Libyan crisis should be sought through strengthened cooperation on migration and border management, enhanced rule of law in migration and border management and provision of alternatives to communities at risk. Programmes should be aimed at promoting stabilization through quick-impact income-generating activities and enhanced service delivery, strengthened migrant-inclusive health and well-being services, capacity building mechanisms, and longer term socio-economic development through democratic reform, good governance, and the rule of law.

Action oriented and forward looking programmes are now a top priority for poor countries as there is little doubt that the driving forces behind international migration pre-dated the Libyan conflict and will certainly endure beyond the current turmoil in the North Africa and Middle East region.

Humanitarian Response to the Libyan Crisis

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