

Working together for Libya

May 2011



Crisis Overview

The Libyan crisis remains very complex, with hostilities, lack of supplies and a large number of refugees. Ms. Valerie Amos, UN Under-Secretary-General for Humanitarian Affairs and Emergency Relief Coordinator, has called for a temporary stop to hostilities. This would enable humanitarian organisations to provide relief and treat the wounded.

Since our [April issue](#), 14,000 people have fled Libya by boat and reached Italy or Malta. UN OCHA reported that at least 1,200 people have died during the crossing and the ones who make it have to endure unhealthy conditions. The UN High Commissioner for Refugees is trying to discourage migrants from leaving Tripoli by boat after many of them capsized.

Needs Assessment

According to UN OCHA, since the beginning of the unrest, over 790,000 people have fled Libya into neighbouring countries or have been repatriated. There are still over 2,000 refugees at the Tunisian border, with basic goods and services available in the short-term.

Find out more about the Libyan crisis on the dedicated section on our website: humanitarianforum.org/pages/en/libyan-borders-2011.html

The OIC publishes regular and extensive needs assessments for Libya, with medication, medical and surgical supplies being urgently sought. Read these assessments in English/Arabic on our website, in the Reports and Resources section: humanitarianforum.org/pages/en/reports-and-resources.html

The regular UN OCHA reports highlight the fact that cash and fuel shortages restrict movement and the delivery of aid. Access northafrica.humanitarianresponse.info, the inter-agency website for the Libyan crisis set up by OCHA, for more information.

The US\$310 million Flash Appeal for the Libyan Crisis is currently funded at 48 per cent with \$150 million committed. Due to the escalating needs, it is being revised and will be launched in late May.

Humanitarian Coordination Meeting

8 May, Cairo

As a follow-up to our 24 March Humanitarian Coordination Meeting, on 8 May we convened a meeting in Cairo, hosted by the League of Arab States (LAS) and the Organisation of Islamic Conference (OIC).



The conference brought together 80 representatives from 57 organisations from the UN, the Red Cross movement, western international NGOs, Islamic INGOs and NGOs from Egypt and Libya.



In his opening remarks, Dr. Abdelaziz Hegazy, former Egyptian Prime Minister, called on OIC, LAS and the donor community to immediately create a humanitarian relief fund for Libya crisis: "There are costs to many lives if we procrastinate".

Dr. Ahmad Hussein brought greetings from the OIC Secretary-General and said that "the humanitarian situation in Libya has become dangerous and very critical".

Her Excellency Dr. Sima Bahous, Assistant

Secretary-General for Social Affairs of LAS, remarked upon the importance of the meeting: "...it is a pivotal moment in history for the Islamic Development Bank, the UN, League of Arab States, non-governmental organisations and regional governmental bodies to work together on a humanitarian crisis in the Arab world".

Ahmed Ben Moussa, head of the Libyan National Transitional Council's Humanitarian Aid Committee, gave a first hand briefing of the humanitarian situation in different parts of the country and said that "Libya is on the verge of collapse".



OIC and LAS committed to play a leading role in coordinating humanitarian efforts alongside UN OCHA and others. OIC and LAS will also organise a second humanitarian convoy involving 50 humanitarian agencies.

All attending agencies agreed to improve coordination and regularly share information. The Humanitarian Aid Committee and UN OCHA committed to influence governments and regional bodies to guarantee the protection of civilians and provide all humanitarian actors with access to civilians in all areas of Libya.

The Humanitarian Forum and the Islamic Development Bank expressed their commitment to build the capacity of newly formed civil society organisations and support networking between them. Read overleaf about The Humanitarian Forum's CSO training workshops.

See pictures from the meeting on our Flickr page: flickr.com/photos/humanitarianforum.

Updates from our members and partners—May 2011

Our members and partners have kindly provided us with details of their response for the Libyan crisis.

The needs are complex; they can be met efficiently and speedily through collaboration and partnerships between humanitarian organisations wanting to provide relief. This avoids the duplication of efforts and enables those in need in Libya to receive the aid and care they require.

Organisations have different skills, methods, contacts, trust and access to funding. Improving the quality of development and humanitarian work is vital for saving more lives.

Major actors need to understand each other better, and feel more able to share information and ideas.

The *Libyan Committee for Humanitarian Aid and Relief (LCHR)* was established by the National Transitional Council. Access libyanaid.org for local needs assessments in English and Arabic.

IHH sent a ship with 682 tons of humanitarian relief supplies to the port of Misrata. The aid was distributed to those in need, under heavy bombardment.

ICRC brought kits of surgical instruments, surgical disposable dressings and other medical supplies, 8,000 jars of baby food. They also do vital work to reduce the danger of unexploded devices in the streets of Misrata.

Islamic Relief has shipped \$130,000 worth of medical aid and food supplies to Misrata, in conjunction with World Food Programme (WFP). It has distributed food and medical items (four trucks of medical supplies). *Islamic Relief* has also managed a transit camp at the northern Tunisian border crossing of Ras Ajdir, where many non-Libyan migrant workers have been fleeing from the unrest. The organisation has also helped with the repatriation of stranded third country nationals to their country of origin with flights. *Islamic Relief* has recently provided and delivered £100,000 worth of life saving medicines to hospitals situated in the Western Mountain areas of Libya.

IFRC conducted a mission to Libya from 9-13 May to assess assistance demands and the prospects for humanitarian activities in support of the Libyan Red Crescent and ICRC.

The *Arab Medical Union (AMU)* has deployed over 100 physicians in Eastern Libya and distributed over 20 tonnes of medical supplies.

Doctors without Borders (MSF) surgical teams have been working in Misrata, while in Benghazi, teams are helping manage the pharmacies. *MSF* psychologists offer psychological support in camps at the Tunisian-Libyan border.

For up-to-date information, access the OCHA website: www.unocha.org/ and the inter-agency website dedicated to the Libyan Crisis: northafrica.humanitarianresponse.info.



Civil Society Training Workshops



For 12 days in late April-beginning of May, The Humanitarian Forum has conducted four workshops in the Libyan towns of Benghazi, AlBayda, Derna and Shahad, aimed at building the capacity of local NGO leaders. Over 180 participants attended these workshops (over 40% were women). Also, two hands-on sessions have been conducted to help Libyan NGOs utilize the internet in networking and communicating their achievements.

Background

Most of the NGOs in eastern Libya are newly formed or not registered yet. The work of the Libyan NGOs is focusing mainly on relief and emergency activities for displaced persons and on fulfilling basic needs (food, water and shelter) for poor communities. The local organisations have access to areas where INGOs might not be fully involved, due to security reasons. Some of them are supported by the Libyan Diaspora from

Europe and the United States.

Training

The workshops have improved the capacity of the participants and provided them with state of the art knowledge and skills of the Results Based Management (RBM) approach to effectively plan, implement and monitor relief and development programmes. They enhanced the participants' knowledge of how to attract and manage volunteers and the importance of networking and coordination.



This has enabled local organisations to network and discuss potential partnerships, while gaining valuable skills to create a stronger civil sector in Libya.



Next steps

The Humanitarian Forum is honoured to announce that it will continue its training of Libyan NGOs in early June. This work is generously supported by the Islamic Development Bank and Islamic Relief, and is in collaboration with Qatar Red Crescent and UN OCHA.

See pictures from the meeting on our Flickr page: flickr.com/photos/humanitarianforum.



We have a section on our website dedicated to projects and proposals for humanitarian needs in Libya. Send us your reports, press releases and project proposals at info@humanitarianforum.org.