Population Movements

As of 10 July, the Libyan Coast Guard rescued/intercepted 11,276 refugees and migrants at sea. Since June, the number of rescue/interception operations increased when compared to the previous months (3,453 in June, 1,756 in May and 1,463 in April). UNHCR recorded a high number of deaths or disappearances at sea in the month of June (255 persons). The majority of individuals (70 per cent) were disembarked at the Tripoli Naval Base. Most boats departed from areas between Al-Khums and Garabulli, or from Azzawya and Zwara.

Last week alone, 467 refugees and migrants were disembarked at the Tripoli Naval Base (398 individuals) and Azzawya (69 individuals). Most individuals disembarked in Libya were suffering from malnutrition, trauma and skin diseases such as scabies due to long periods of captivity at the hands of smugglers. UNHCR observed a rise in the number of Sudanese and South Sudanese trying to cross the sea. UNHCR and its partner International Medical Corps were present during the disembarkation. They provided core-relief items and vital medical assistance both at disembarkation points and in the detention centres to which individuals were transferred by the authorities. Due to the increase in the number of disembarkations in the past months, detention centres in and around Tripoli are also increasingly overcrowded. UNHCR estimates that some 8,000 individuals are currently in detention, out of which 4,000 are of concern to UNHCR.

UNHCR Response

UNHCR continues to implement quick-impact projects (QIPs) to support host communities, refugees and internally displaced persons in Libya. So far in 2018, UNHCR implemented 75 QIPs throughout Libya reaching an estimated population of 37,500 individuals affected by the crisis. To help internally displaced persons and returnees, UNHCR has provided local communities, municipalities, hospitals and schools with different support including school desks, computers, water tanks, solar street lights and waste management items. In the upcoming weeks, UNHCR is planning to support medical facilities in Benghazi.

On 9 July, the UNHCR Chief of Mission, Mr. Roberto Mignone, together with the Deputy Special Representative of the Secretary-General, Ms. Maria Ribeiro, and the IOM Chief of Mission, Mr. Othman Belbeisi, met in Tripoli with the President of the European (EU) Parliament, Mr. Antonio Tajani. During the meeting, UNHCR stressed the need for solutions in third countries, including resettlement, for persons of concern to UNHCR in Libya. Since the start of the evacuation operation from Libya in late 2017, a total of 1,858 persons (including unaccompanied children) were evacuated to Niger (1,536), Italy (312) and the ETC Romania (10). There are 262 evacuated unaccompanied children remaining in Niger. Currently the total remaining capacity to accommodate evacuees in UNHCR’s Emergency Transit Centre in Niamey is 125 persons. In addition, since 1 September 2017, 565 individuals were submitted for direct resettlement from Libya to 7 resettlement States (Canada, France, Germany, Italy, Norway, Sweden, and Switzerland). A total of 44 individuals already departed on resettlement directly from Libya to Canada, France, Sweden and the Netherlands. A total of 541 individuals have been submitted for resettlement and are pending interview or decision by a resettlement State.

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