

UNFPA FLASH UPDATE: TRIPOLI RESPONSE



SITUATION

400,000

Women and girls affected

37,440

Women of reproductive age in need of immediate humanitarian assistance

82,300

Displaced individuals

RESPONSE

3,466

Displaced women, girls and newborns assisted

2,828

Internally displaced persons reached with psychosocial support services

1,392

Pregnant women assisted

APPEAL



USD 2 M

Situation Overview

Since 4 April 2019, heavy clashes between the Libyan National Army (LNA) and armed groups affiliated with the Government of National Accord (GNA) have affected Tripoli and surrounding areas. As of 25 May 2019, the total number of casualties reported is 3,417, including 562 deaths. A total of 146 civilian casualties have been confirmed by the Health Sector, including 40 civilian deaths. The armed conflict continues to impact on health personnel and facilities, which are subject to indiscriminate shelling. Since the beginning of the crisis, six health workers have been killed, seven have been injured, 14 ambulances have been impacted, including one hit by an apparent direct attack, and two health facilities were fully evacuated. These incidents further hamper the ability of already overstretched health services to provide vital assistance to civilians and constitute gross violations of International Humanitarian Law (IHL). The United Nations continue to call for an extendable humanitarian truce to allow for the provision of emergency services and the voluntary movement of civilians trapped in conflict areas.

Over 400,000 women and girls are directly affected by the conflict and at heightened risk of abuse, including 37,440 women of reproductive age who are in need of immediate humanitarian assistance. As of 24 May 2019, 82,300 individuals have been displaced: 45,600 of them received some form of humanitarian assistance, leaving a gap of 45%. Women and girls who have fled their homes require specific support with basic personal items to maintain their health and dignity while being displaced. Increased levels of psychosocial stress have been reported among displaced people. Unconfirmed numbers of individuals remain trapped in the conflict-affected areas including nearly 3,380 migrants and refugees in detention centers, out of which 396 are women and girls held in deplorable and unsafe conditions. Recent reports indicate lack of food in some detention centres, including allegations of sexual harassment and physical abuse. As the conflict continues to escalate, women and girls are continuously at risk of sexual exploitation and abuse either while fleeing the conflict areas, where they might be forced to negotiate for safe passage, or while accessing humanitarian aid.

Displaced urban migrants who have lost their job opportunities find themselves with limited shelter options in Tripoli and are at risk of depleting their resources amidst sky rocketing prices of commodities in the market including rent. With limited options for financial resources, they are continuously exposed to sexual exploitation and abuse.

UNFPA Emergency Response

SUPPORT TO VULNERABLE DISPLACED POPULATIONS, WITH A FOCUS ON WOMEN AND GIRLS

Rapid Response Mechanism: distribution of Dignity Kits and Baby Kits

Between 11 April - 27 May 2019, UNFPA distributed Dignity Kits and Baby Kits to 3,466 displaced women, girls and newborns among a total of 4,363 households reached in collective centers and urban settlements in and around Tripoli through the Rapid Response Mechanism (RRM) jointly implemented with IOM, UNICEF and WFP and in partnership with the Libyan Scouts. The RRM is meant to provide immediate humanitarian assistance to the displaced and most vulnerable individuals. UNFPA kits contain specific items that are essential to maintain the health and wellbeing of displaced women, girls and babies.

3,466

DISPLACED WOMEN, GIRLS AND
NEWBORNS PROVIDED WITH DIGNITY
KITS AND BABY KITS

AREAS REACHED:

Abusalm, Ain Zara, AlKhums, Al Maya, Ben Ashur, Garabulli, Janzour, Kasr Al-Akyar, Msallata, Suq AlJumaa, Sabratha, Tajoura, Zliten.

Psychosocial Support

Between 10 April - 25 May 2019, UNFPA deployed eight mobile teams of psychosocial workers through local partners Elssafa, Al Bayan and PSS Team, which provided first aid psychosocial support and counselling to 2,828 internally displaced persons, including women, men, girls and boys, in collective centers and urban settlements in and around Tripoli. Individual and group counselling are combined with recreational and awareness-raising activities to decrease levels of psychosocial stress.

2,828

INTERNALLY DISPLACED PERSONS REACHED WITH PSYCHOSOCIAL SUPPORT SERVICES

AREAS REACHED:

Abusalim, Ain Zara, AlKhums, Azzawa, Ben Ashur, Hay Alandalus, Fashlom, Janzour, Msallata, Suq Aljumaa, Tajoura, Tripoli.

HEALTH

Supporting the provision of lifesaving reproductive health services

Jointly with Tripoli Health Services Department and Tripoli Crisis Management Team, UNFPA contributed to the rehabilitation and equipment of Weryemma Polyclinic in Eastern Tripoli. A specialized team will be deployed in the Polyclinic to provide Basic Emergency Obstetric and Newborn Care, antenatal, postnatal and newborn care 24 hours a day, 7 days a week. UNFPA is also working on the rehabilitation of a polyclinic in Janzour jointly with the Ministry of Health and Ministry of Local Governance. The two activated maternities will reduce the load of patients that are referred to Al Jalaa maternity hospital, Al Khadra hospital and Tajoura hospital.

UNFPA also scaled up the support to referral hospitals in Tripoli and surrounding areas affected by the conflict. Between 26 March and 4 April 2019, UNFPA has prepositioned 26 Emergency Reproductive Health kits in referral hospitals in Zliten, Zawiya, Tarhouna, Khoms, Sbiaa, Msallata,

Garabulli, Gharian, Zinten and Sabrata to cover for the provision of safe deliveries for 1,005 pregnant women over a period of three months. Following the start of the crisis on 4 April, in partnership with the National Center for Disease Control (NCDC), UNFPA delivered 7 Emergency Reproductive Health kits to Al Jamil, Al Jalaa and Al Asabaa health centers, to cover for the provision of emergency obstetric care services for an additional 375 pregnant women.

UNFPA also works with the Libyan Midwifery Association to conduct antenatal care consultations and health awareness-raising sessions with displaced women in collective centres and in urban areas. A total of 18 displaced women have been reached so far.

1,392

PREGNANT WOMEN ASSISTED

AREAS REACHED:

AlAsabaa, AlJmail, Tripoli, Zwara, Zliten, Zawiya, Tarhouna, Khoms, Sbiaa, Msallata, Garabulli, Gharian, Zinten, Sabrata.

Funding and Planned Interventions

UNFPA officially re-activated the Reproductive Health Sub Working Group (RH-SWG), co-chaired by the Ministry of Health under the umbrella of the Health Sector, which ensures coordination of the RH response and identification of gaps. The first meeting of the RH-SWG was held on 5 May 2019 and identified key gaps in medical supplies and reproductive health interventions that will be addressed by different health partners under the joint coordination of the Ministry of Health and UNFPA.

Under UNFPA leadership, the Gender-Based Violence (GBV) Sub-Sector has been coordinating the GBV response in and around Tripoli and continues to advocate for the following:

- Issuance of a communiqué to both parties involved in conflict to hold accountable militants perpetrating incidents of sexual violence against civilians, particularly following recent increase in reported incidents of sexual violence perpetrated against non -Libyans by militants.
- Civilians and migrant women and girls must be able to physically move away from conflict areas. All parties must commit to providing warning and ensuring humanitarian corridors for women and girls and other civilians out of affected areas.
- Immediate health, shelter as well as protection needs have to be addressed to save lives. Access to short and long term solutions for safe shelters should be based on the principle of non- discrimination for both Libyans and non-Libyans.

UNFPA has also shared the Common Operational Dataset on Population Statistics (COD-PS) for Tripoli with OCHA on 10 April to be used for estimation of affected people. It includes demographic projections with full disaggregation by age, sex, mantiqa and muhalla and was prepared jointly with the Bureau of Statistics and Census in Libya.

As part of the Tripoli Flash Appeal launched by the Humanitarian Country Team (HCT), UNFPA has appealed for USD 1.2 million to provide protection, psychosocial support and reproductive health services to women and girls affected by the crisis in the month of April.

In light of the protracted nature of the crisis, UNFPA and its partners require a total of USD 2 million to respond to the growing needs of displaced households in conflict-affected areas over the coming three months.

UNFPA plans to reach an additional 50,000 IDPs in the coming six to nine months as part of the scaling up of the Rapid Response Mechanism (RRM). The RRM will target the most vulnerable women and men, reaching out to conflict-affected areas inside and outside Tripoli. The number of mobile teams providing psychosocial support to IDPs in collective centers will also be increased, reaching out to additional urban settlements inside and outside Tripoli.

A hotline to provide psychosocial support and counselling to people in need is about to be launched by UNFPA, in partnership with local partners. This line will be toll-free and reachable everywhere in Libya. UNFPA is also expanding the deployment of community health volunteers with the Libyan Red Crescent and the Libyan Midwifery Association in Tripoli and other conflict-affected municipalities. These volunteers will provide health education sessions and refer vulnerable women to health facilities.

Reproductive health services will continue to be provided through the two UNFPA-supported polyclinics in Weryemma and Janzour, in addition to the referral hospitals in displacement and conflict-affected areas. UNFPA will provide trainings and capacity building to the health workers deployed in these facilities. This will allow to reach more than 18,000 women, girls, men and boys over the coming six months.

For more information:

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