This report is produced by OCHA in collaboration with humanitarian partners. It was prepared by OCHA Libya. It covers the period from 23 to 26 September 2011. The next report will be issued on or around 29 September.

I. HIGHLIGHTS/KEY PRIORITIES

- Humanitarian access to Sirte is limited due to fierce fighting in the town
- Protection concerns remain for around 50,000 IDPs from minority groups
- About 1.5 million children to resume learning as primary and middle schools reopen
- INGOs focus on providing medical assistance to treat war-wounded near the frontlines

II. Situation Overview

Humanitarian access to Sirte, northern Libya, is limited due to fierce fighting in the town, which is one of the last strongholds of pro-Gaddafi fighters. Humanitarian actors have expressed concern over the situation in Sirte, which is reportedly experiencing water shortages and the electricity supply has been cut off. About 6,000 people have been displaced from the city, according to humanitarian and media reports.

In response to the situation in Sirte, humanitarian actors have prepositioned food and medical supplies on the outskirts of the city, ready to respond to the needs of the populations affected by the conflict as soon as access is possible.

Intense fighting and insecurity have also been reported in Bani Walid and parts of southern Libya, around Sabha and Hun.

Due to the volatile security situation, there is limited verified information on the humanitarian situation in the areas that continue to experience fighting. Much of the information on humanitarian needs has been obtained from key informants and Internally Displaced Persons (IDPs) who left the towns due to the conflict.

Libya has an estimated total of between 100,000 and 150,000 IDPs, with the dynamics of displacement rapidly change as conflict continues in Sirte, Bani Walid, Sabha, as well as in other pockets of the country. According to UNHCR estimates, since the beginning of September 2011, some 35,400 persons have been displaced from Bani Walid (some estimates put the figure as high as 43,000).

Humanitarian partners are deeply concerned about the situation of 50,000 IDPs from minority groups such as the Tawarga, Gawalish and Mushashya. Some of these people have been unable to return to their homes and have suffered from communal tensions, experienced fears of reprisal acts, arrest and detention of male community members due to perceived association with the former regime.

The situation in many other conflict-affected parts of Libya that had experienced fighting has continued to stabilise, with life returning to normal. In these areas, humanitarian partners are phasing out their response and switching to longer-term planning for early recovery and recovery activities.
The mission of the United Nations Office for the Coordination of Humanitarian Affairs (OCHA) is to mobilize and coordinate effective and principled humanitarian action in partnership with national and international actors. Celebrating 20 years of coordinated humanitarian action

III. Humanitarian Needs and Response

PROTECTION

Serious protection concerns remain for around 50,000 IDPs from minority groups such as the Tewergha, Gwalish and Mishashya due to direct threats to their physical security as well as social discrimination. The Protection Cluster continues work to ensure that these IDPs have safe locations to seek shelter. They are also receiving food baskets from WFP and water supplies from UNICEF. The Cluster is working with the interim Government of Libya, the Libya Stabilisation Team and the Security Committee to resolve protection issues and find durable solutions.

Humanitarian actors are also concerned about the situation of third country nationals (TCNs), both migrants and refugees/asylum-seekers, who have become more vulnerable to human rights violations, committed by fighters as well as civilians, since the outbreak of the conflict. In September 2011, at least 1,500 people of Sub-Saharan African descent were reported to be in official and ad hoc detention centres in Tripoli. Meanwhile, at least another 1,500 people have reportedly been forced, out of fear, to gather in small urban pockets or to occupy public premises in very difficult conditions, such as a group of some 700 TCNs in the port area of Sidi Bilal on the outskirts of Tripoli.

IOM continues to register TCNs in Tripoli, in order to identify migrants who want to leave the city, due to the serious protection issues they are facing. The IOM team is working to provide the migrants with appropriate documentation to leave the country, if necessary. The majority of the remaining migrants stranded in Libya are from Sub-Saharan Africa.

Following a number of incidents in which children were injured as a result of celebratory shooting, the Child Protection Working Group expressed concern about the practice in a joint letter to the Military Council in eastern Libya, requesting the Council to take all possible and urgent action to prevent further harm to children and youth.

FOOD SECURITY & LIVELIHOODS

The Food Security and Livelihoods Cluster continues to receive substantial requests for food assistance, especially from Sabha, Bani Walid and Sirte. Although the exact numbers of displaced persons in these areas are still unclear, the numbers of people needing food aid may be higher than previously anticipated. WFP is scaling up resources to potentially reach 750,000 with emergency food rations in October, should the need arise. Much of the food assistance provided would most likely be one-off distributions, and the number of people in need of food assistance is expected to decrease in subsequent months.

The Cluster is preparing for assessments to establish food needs in areas that have previously been inaccessible, including Bani Walid, parts of the Nafusa Mountains, Sabha district and other southern areas, as well as western coastal areas. The assessments will be undertaken as the security situation permits. These assessments will enable WFP to determine the scale of food needs in the country and provide an appropriate and targeted response.

WFP delivered 274 metric tons of food (15-day rations) for distribution to 40,000 vulnerable individuals in and around Shatti, a southern city 750 kilometres south of Tripoli, in the past week. This immediate response comes in addition to 137 metric tons (MT) delivered to Shmaikh, south of Bani Walid, for some 10,000 IDPs arriving from Bani Walid. WFP is currently dispatching 24 MT of food to Nesma, southwest of Bani Walid, for about 3,000 IDPs. Today (26 September) WFP unloaded 616 MT of food assistance in the port of Tripoli, part of 1,000 MT of food stock prepositioned in the capital city. This will ensure rapid mobilisation and distribution of food to people in need of urgent food assistance as humanitarian access opens up, such as to Bani Walid, Sirte and Sabha, where prolonged fighting has taken place.
In Tripoli, during September, WFP has assisted 1,500 displaced persons, 1,000 stranded migrant workers and is in process of providing food assistance to 25,000 vulnerable residents.

**HEALTH**

Health conditions are gradually improving in most areas as humanitarian partners and the Ministry of Health fill gaps in medical supplies and support provision of health services across the country, particularly in towns receiving the war-wounded from areas with ongoing fighting. The number of war wounded is currently estimated by the Ministry of Health to be at least 50,000, including some 20,000 with serious injuries. These numbers are expected to rise as fighting continues.

INGO medical teams are providing support to field hospitals in Bani Walid and on the outskirts of Sirte, which is receiving casualties from the fighting for Sirte and the Jufra area. The hospital has been moved to a new location 50 kilometers outside of Sirte in order to be positioned closer to the frontlines. More than 200 casualties have been received at the facility over the past week.

A number of INGO medical teams also continue to provide support to hospitals in Tripoli and other parts of the country. An INGO received a total of 42,000 doses of vaccines that will be enough for east Libya for one month.

The key health priorities across the country remain the treatment of conflict-related injuries, equitable access to essential health services, security of health facilities and health staff, and functionality of health facilities (water and sanitation, electricity, drugs, safe blood and consumables). In addition, post-conflict early recovery planning for the health system is now emerging as a major health priority.

**EDUCATION**

Primary and middle schools have reopened and high schools are scheduled to resume on 1 October in areas where fighting has stopped. This means that approximately 1.5 million children will be able to return to school and resume learning activities. UNICEF and the Ministry of Education conducted a campaign to increase awareness among students and families about the start of the school year.

There is an urgent need for the Ministry of Education and Education Working Group partners to enable IDP children to attend formal or informal education while they are in displacement. This is not only important for education, but also for the safety and security of students and to prevent involvement of children in conflict-related activities. Children among the Tawarga IDPs staying in and around Tarhouna are currently unable to attend local schools.

Education Working Group partners and the Ministry of Education are developing a comprehensive education plan and exploring the possibility of conducting a countrywide school assessment. The Ministry of Education has requested for technical and material assistance from UNICEF in the strengthening of Libya’s education system.

**LOGISTICS**

UNHAS continues to offer air passenger transport services. As of 21 September, Cairo and Djerba have been cut from the UNHAS schedule, and the remaining flights will operate between Malta, Tripoli and Benghazi (flying three times a week). UNHAS is facing a shortage of funds: based on current funding levels, UNHAS will only be able to operate flights for less than two weeks. An additional $1.4 million per month is required in order to ensure continued operations of UNHAS flights beyond 30 September with the current schedule. Due to the security situation, parts of Libya remain inaccessible by road, and there are few commercial flights. Therefore, UNHAS flights remain imperative to provide transport and evacuation capacity for humanitarian personnel.

Further details about accessing UNHAS services and the latest schedule are available at [http://www.logcluster.org/ops/isy11a/unhas-schedule-and-forms](http://www.logcluster.org/ops/isy11a/unhas-schedule-and-forms). The limit for personal luggage is 20kg. Additional cargo may be requested by filling out the Service Request Form.
The Cluster is providing free bonded storage in Malta Freeport for transit cargo. For more information about this service, please contact northafrica.cargo@logcluster.org. For general information about the Logistics Cluster, including on warehousing and transport services (air, sea and road), please visit: http://www.logcluster.org/ops/lby11a

IV. Coordination

OCHA is coordinating with humanitarian partners and the interim Government of Libya to undertake harmonised needs assessment activities in previously inaccessible areas. These assessments will support the development of a humanitarian response plan to cover the period from October to December. The humanitarian plan will include details for a humanitarian exit strategy, as most humanitarian actors are likely to phase out substantive humanitarian programming by the end of November. There are likely to be some residual humanitarian needs beyond the end of December, particularly in the areas of protection and mine action. These will be incorporated into Technical Cooperation Programmes in 2012.

The coordination meeting schedules for Tripoli, Zarzis, Benghazi and Cairo, as well as the Humanitarian Country Team (HCT) contact lists, are available online at http://libya.humanitarianresponse.info/. All humanitarians working in Libya are strongly encouraged to subscribe to OCHA’s mailing list, which is also used to produce a contact directory to support coordination in Libya. http://bit.ly/oiQrTr

OCHA Libya is producing a daily humanitarian media monitoring service. The service provides an overview of the Libya crisis as portrayed in the worldwide media, including: news agencies, newspapers, Arab Satellite TV, websites, social media and press releases by humanitarian organisations. If you wish to subscribe to the media monitoring service, visit: http://bit.ly/o0S0r3.

V. Funding

The Flash Appeal is funded at 61.4 per cent, with $250 million received out of the $407 million requested. Donations have also been recorded to projects outside the appeal, with a total of $181 million. This brings the total recorded humanitarian funding for the Libya crisis to $431 million.

OCHA has an incomplete picture of funding donated outside the Flash Appeal. To ensure coordination of resources, please advise the Financial Tracking Service (fts@un.org) of all funding and in-kind donations. The Financial Tracking Service shows daily updates of funding for this appeal and other humanitarian response to the Libyan crisis.

VI. Contact

OCHA Libya:
M. Ramesh Rajasingham, Head of Office a.i.
rajasingham@un.org

Brendan McDonald: Deputy Head of Office
mcdonaldb@un.org +218 92892 5310

Rebecca Tustin: Reports Officer
tustin@un.org

OCHA New York:
Julie Belanger: Officer-in-Charge, Europe, Central Asia and Middle East (ACAEME) Section Coordination Response Division, belangerj@un.org +1 (518) 429 6910

Stephanie Bunker: Spokesperson and Public Information Officer, bunker@un.org +1 917 367 5126

Moira Little: Humanitarian Affairs Officer, Europe, Central Asia and Middle East (ACAEME) Section Coordination Response Division, littlem@un.org +1 (518) 429 6910

OCHA Geneva:
Thierry Delbreuve: Humanitarian Affairs Officer
delbreuve@un.org +41 (0) 22 917 1688

Elisabeth Byrs: Spokesperson and Public Information Officer
byrs@un.org +41 22 917 2653

For more information, please visit:
http://libya.humanitarianresponse.info
http://ochaonline.un.org
www.reliefweb.int
www.irinnews.org

To be added or deleted from this sit rep mailing list, please e-mail: ochareporting@un.org or visit:
http://ochaonline.un.org

http://libya.humanitarianresponse.info
The mission of the United Nations Office for the Coordination of Humanitarian Affairs (OCHA) is to mobilize and coordinate effective and principled humanitarian action in partnership with national and international actors.
Celebrating 20 years of coordinated humanitarian action