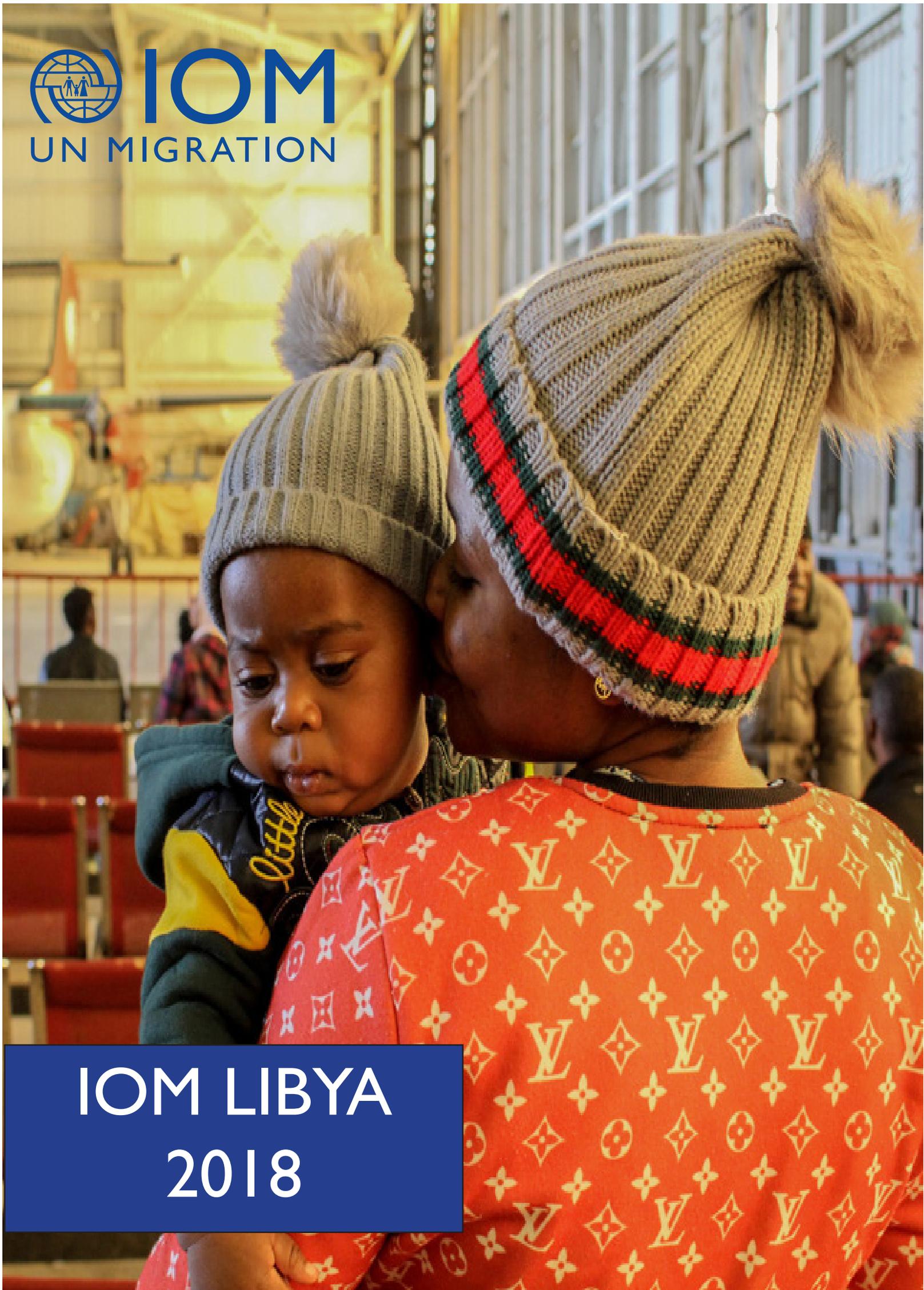




IOM
UN MIGRATION



IOM LIBYA
2018



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IOM, the UN Migration Agency, works to help ensure the orderly and humane management of migration, to promote international cooperation on migration issues, to assist in the search for practical solutions to migration problems and to provide humanitarian assistance to migrants in need, including refugees and internally displaced people.

Foreword

2018: a year of significant developments for IOM Libya. The Mission has expanded operation capacities and appointed additional staff across Libya. Through collaboration and cooperation with the Libyan Government, close coordination with our Partners, and generous support of our donors, we continue to provide humanitarian support to thousands of internally displaced persons and migrants across the country.

As security challenges remain significant, several Libyans are displaced; although some have been able to return home to rebuild their lives. Supporting community stabilization and resilience is a priority for IOM and remains a significant factor to a better future for Libyans. The Mission is working with local community leaders in the south to implement development projects including the rehabilitation of schools and building water wells, and equipping clinics. Such work was made possible through collaboration and close coordination with local authorities and community leaders. Our key partners support IOM in identifying the primary and urgent needs of their communities: Without their support our work could not be done.

Also in 2018, our Voluntary Humanitarian Return (VHR) Programme broadened geographical reach covering the West, East and South of Libya, with charters departing from Tripoli, Zintan, Zwara, Misrata, Benghazi, and Tamanhant airports. The VHR programme is built on the pillars of protection and health assistance ensuring that the most vulnerable migrants receive the support they need.

Further to this, the Mission's protection work is tailored to the communities and individuals we assist. This work maintains a focus on finding alternative solutions to detention through a large network of host families.

In 2018 we expanded our health portfolio both at the technical and operational levels with the strong support of the Libyan Ministry of Health and the World Health Organization.

IOM staff continue to provide lifesaving humanitarian assistance in Libya, this work includes distributing core and essential relief items to those in need.

While advocating for alternatives to detention, the Mission continues to rehabilitate detention centres around the country to improve the living conditions for those who remain detained.

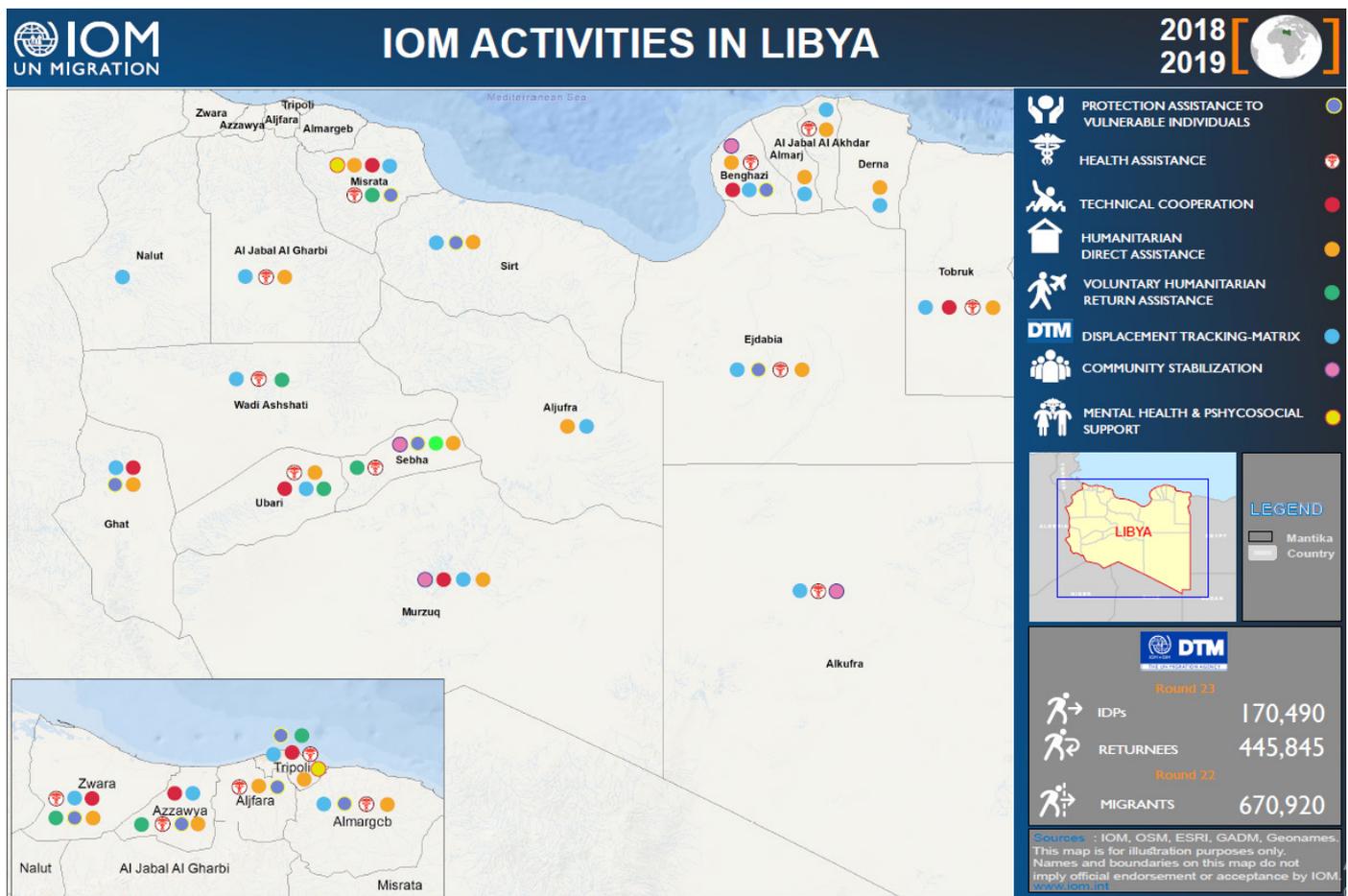
To better protect migrants, we enhanced our technical support to the Libyan Government in terms of migration management. This included technical workshops and training, as well as the provision of life saving equipment to the Libyan Coast Guard and medical equipment to the Libyan Ministry of Health.

While much focus is rightfully on addressing short-term emergency needs, these efforts must be coupled with the push to further develop and implement comprehensive sustainable migration management strategies in Libya. We have taken major steps in this direction through the Migration Working Group, chaired by the Ministry of Foreign Affairs and co-chaired by IOM.

On behalf of IOM Libya, I extend our warmest gratitude and appreciation to all IOM staff operating from Libya and our support staff in Tunisia; for their diligence and dedication. I further acknowledge and thank our donors and partners in Government and non-Governmental organizations for supporting IOM in the delivery of our work.

We look forward to further strengthened partnerships in the provision of assistance to those who need it most.

Othman Belbeisi
IOM Libya Chief of Mission



Community stabilization

IOM's Community Stabilization (CS) programme supports the stability and resilience of Libya by contributing to the efforts of the international community and Government of Libya to bring back normality for all people living in Libya. The 'Together We Rebuild' is a multi-donor program, which started in 2016 in Sabha and Qatroun in the south of Libya, with expansions to Benghazi and Kufra in the east of Libya in 2017.

Protracted conflict has damaged vital infrastructure and strained the relationships between communities. Everyday life, particularly in the south, is further complicated by fuel shortages, power cuts and cash liquidities.

In creating conditions for the restoration of normal social and economic life for Libyan communities and migrants, the CS programme seeks to address drivers of displacement and instability through a three-pillar approach. The objective of this approach is to restore services and community infrastructure, promote social cohesion and support the regeneration of livelihoods.

In 2018, 24 public facilities were rehabilitated and provided with equipment. The facilities included schools, health clinics, and local football fields. The team in Sabha and Qatroun also provided support to the Water and Waste Water Company to contribute to improving the infrastructure and service delivery in the region. As part of its efforts to promote social cohesion, the organization also provided trainings on conflict mediation and peacebuilding for a total of 92 participants in Sabha and Qatroun. The participants were community leaders and representatives from the government and civil society. The team in Sabha also provided support and equipment to local farmers and entrepreneurs.

Key figures:

Public facilities rehabilitated and provided with equipment: 24

Female micro-entrepreneurs received training and equipment: 25

Farmers received olive seedlings and olive press machines: 1,600











Technical Cooperation

IOM provides technical assistance to the Libyan government to contribute to the enhanced management of migration, with the best interest of both Libyans and Migrants in mind. In 2018, the team conducted a Rapid Needs Assessment for equipment, training and infrastructure, conducted in coordination with Consultation Working Group, established to support all Technical Cooperation actions. Based on assessment findings, IOM procured over 10,000 pieces of equipment, including life jackets, emergency blankets, and other needed items to be used for search and rescue operations. The equipment was provided to LCG to be distributed on 13 disembarkation points to ensure support to migrants returned to Libyan shores.

As part of its capacity building programme, IOM also facilitated a total of 15 trainings benefitting 214 Libyan officials, and covering themes like human rights, data management, migration essentials, first aid, as well as an English language course aiming at improving communications between the migrants and officers working on migration.

The team also supervised the rehabilitation of 5 disembarkation points in 2018, as well as the rehabilitation and maintenance support in 8 detention centres.

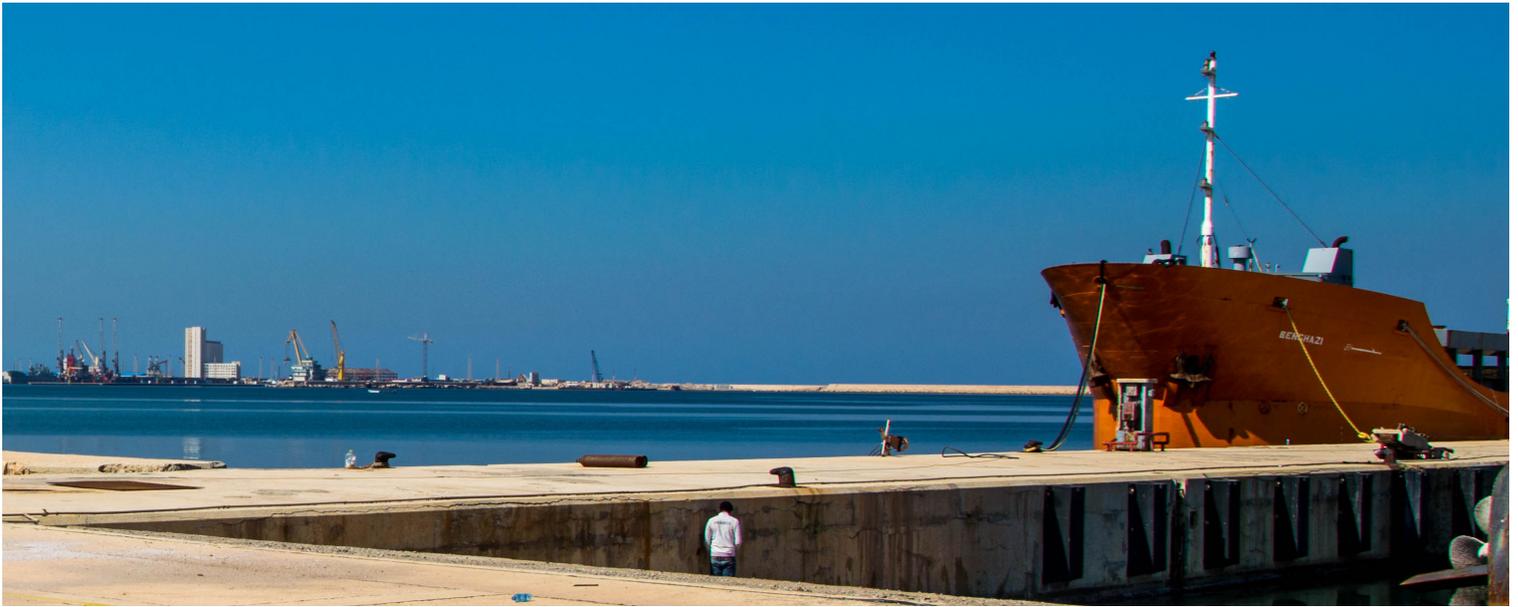
The technical assistance also included the development of standard operation procedures on rescue at sea operations that helped improve the mechanism of coordination among the agencies involved in these operations based on best international practices.

Key Figures:

Lifesaving equipment provided to Libyan authorities: 10,542

Disembarkation points rehabilitated: 5

Detention centres rehabilitated and maintenance work: 10







The backpack

“Both my parents were killed a few years ago, and my brother can barely provide for his children. I am a man now, and I want to fight for my survival,” Said 18-year old Abdessamad.

Abdessamad left Somalia carrying a piece of home in his backpack and the dream of reaching Europe in search of a better future. I had met him at a disembarkation point in Tripoli as part of IOM’s direct humanitarian assistance response to an operation carried out by the Libyan Coast guard.

He was among 112 migrants who were returned to shore one May afternoon. A sea of people came off the ship, carrying faces of disappointment, relief, and fear of what may be ahead. And in the midst of the moving crowds, Abdessamad sat quietly looking at the sea as if he had left something behind. He arrived to Libya five months ago and spent his days locked up in a crowded warehouse with hundreds of other migrants who shared the same dream. “We did not talk much to each other. We shared so much and nothing all at once. I did not want to make friends only to lose them, and I had already lost so much.”

One summer day, the smugglers came in, and picked a random number of people to be on the next boat attempting to cross to Italy. Abdessamad saw a glimpse of hope, and his dream was within reach. He started picking up what little he brought with him and putting it in his backpack. They were about to embark into the unknown when he was told to leave his backpack behind.

“My backpack had all my belongings, and I was forced to leave it behind. It felt like I was leaving home again. Suddenly I had nothing. I came to Libya through the desert, and difficult is not a word that can describe our journey. You have to come up with a new word to describe what we went through. For days during the trip, there was nothing but the stillness of the desert. Its immensity was frightening, but I was not scared, and I had no regrets. I held on to the backpack because it was all I had. It was not much, but it was mine, and I had to let it go.”

For him, the backpack was symbolic of everything he had carried with him from home. It was the only thing that connected him to Somalia, and it was now lost. His eyes still unexplainably sparkled with hopes the waves could not wash away.

I looked at him, and I saw a brave young man who had but pride and the clothes on his back. Abdessamad looked away for a few minutes and resumed: “the people in my neighborhood collected money in the mosque so I can pay for my trip, and they gave me what little they had. How can I go back and face them? The smugglers took our money and put us on an old rubber boat as if setting us up to fail, and I can’t go back home a failure.”

He then reached for my hand, put it over his chest and said: “There is fire burning inside my heart, and I do not know how to put it out. I do not know what to expect at sea, or in Europe, but I do know what awaits at home.”

It was only an hour before he was taken away. Abdessamad was transferred to a detention centre in Tripoli. He became another number in an ever-growing list of migrants coming to Libya with dreams and hopes crashing like the waves of the beautiful Tripoli beaches.







Displacement Tracking Matrix

IOM's Displacement Tracking Matrix in Libya provides a common operating picture concerning the movement of populations in Libya, allowing humanitarian actors to provide timely assistance to those in need. It establishes a regular information collection system to monitor the vulnerabilities of beneficiaries and deliver a dependable routine communication line between those being assisted and those providing the assistance. The data is collected by DTM teams across Libya. In 2018, the team continued to deliver flow monitoring routine comprehensive information packages on the locations where IDPs, returnees and migrants move to and from, for what reasons, under what conditions and with what intentions on a bi-monthly cycle through DTM's IDP and migrant reports. Through its flow monitoring activities at key transit points on migration routes in Libya,

DTM also provides evidence base for both humanitarian programming as well as policy discussions. In 2018, the team supported the immediate humanitarian response following displacement incidents through emergency tracking. For this purpose 12 flash updates were issued in 2018 following large-scale, sudden population movements. Building on its country-wide enumerator presence, large key informant network and understanding of community-specific context. DTM also supported IOM and other UN agencies in joint-activities such as facilitating joint-UN and keeping humanitarian actors abreast of the situation in DCIM Detention Centers.

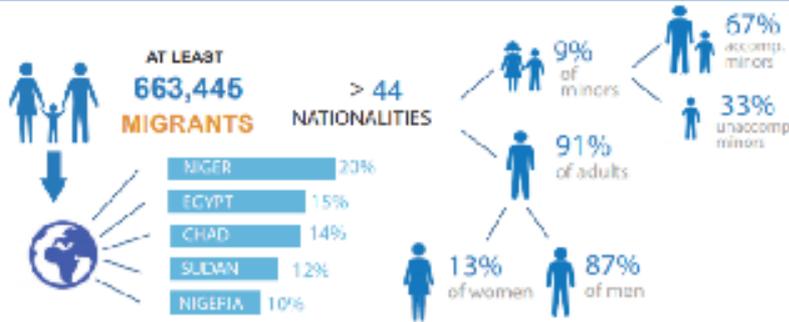




KEY FINDINGS



DTM
IOM + OIP



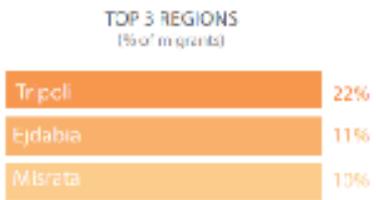
MIGRANTS PRESENT IN
571 of 667
COMMUNITIES



100% COVERAGE



100% of
MUNICIPALITIES



KEY INFORMANTS



SHELTER TYPE





Voluntary Humanitarian Return (VHR)

To assist stranded migrants with no means of returning home, IOM provides voluntary humanitarian return and reintegration support, offering a free of charge and safe passage for migrants who wish to return home and continued support to get set up once there. The return programme is built on strong pillars of protection and health ensuring that those who need it have tailored support.

In 2018, IOM expanded further its VHR support with chartered flights departing from Zintan, Benghazi, Sabha, Misrata, and Tripoli. The teams are also present and continue to conduct operations in 10 locations across the country covering Zwara , Zintan ,Azzawya ,Sebha, Barak-AIshati, Misrata, AlKhums, Surman, Subrata and Benghazi.

During 2018, IOM's VHR team also launched a hotline number enabling all migrants stranded in Libya to benefit from VHR support across the country. The hotline also enables families all over the world to ask for assistance for their loved ones. In 2018, over 16,000 migrants from all over Libya were able to return home to 32 countries across Asia and Africa.

Key Figures

Total number of returnees in 2018 : 16,457 migrants

Total number of returnees since 2015: 39,002 migrants



“Khadija and I met in Abuja a couple of years ago, and fell in love immediately,” said Mohamed before boarding the flight taking him home to Nigeria.

“We shared dreams and hardships. We thought we could start a better life abroad, but when we were returned to Libya by the coastguard, my biggest concern was that I would lose her in the crowds. We ended up in the same detention centre, but we were not allowed to be together. Yet, seeing her face and beautiful smile from afar made the days there more bearable.

We decided to return to Nigeria because we believe our love can grow there. We can have a family and build a life. Whatever awaits us, I know we will be facing it together, and that gives me strength. Today, in this airport, is the first time in months where we are allowed to hold hands. Once they were joined together, I don’t think I can ever let go now.”

Mohamed and Khadija were among 154 migrants who were able to return home that day via IOM’s voluntary humanitarian return assistance (VHR) programme.















Direct Humanitarian Assistance

IOM provides direct humanitarian assistance to migrants in detention centres, urban areas and at disembarkation points. This in the form of aid distributions such as mattresses, clothes, blankets and hygiene kits, among other core relief items. With an estimated 1 million migrants in the country, many of them are in need of basic humanitarian items. The direct assistance teams, operating across the West, East and South of Libya, also conduct assessments visits to detention centres to identify needed support. The team also covers all assistance requests in urban areas. The ongoing clashes in the country also left over 170 thousand people displaced (according to IOM DTM data), leaving them in challenging conditions. IOM teams also respond to the urgent needs of displaced people in areas of conflict.

In 2018, the direct assistance team coordinated the humanitarian response after the eruption of clashes in August-September, leaving over 14,000 people displaced and hundreds of migrants stranded.

Key Figures

Migrants received core relief items: 38,311

Internally displaced individuals received core relief items: 30,413





Protection

IOM protection work in Libya supports vulnerable migrants and internally displaced and conflict affected Libyans. Individual assistance is provided through the identification of vulnerable migrants in need of support. These activities have been expanded beyond Tripoli to Benghazi and Sabha. The protection team conducts monitoring visits to detention centres, while also providing psychosocial first aid for migrants returned to Libyan shore by the Coast Guard and vulnerable



migrants in detention. As an additional measure to enhance protection safeguards, IOM has, in 2018, introduced joint counselling with UNHCR for persons of concern who might face protection risks in the country of origin. With thousands of migrants held in detention, IOM continues to advocate for alternatives and a corner stone of IOM's protection work is to establish sustainable alternatives to detention for the most vulnerable migrants including women and children. Throughout 2018, the protection team have conducted a total of 2,137 protection assessments with vulnerable migrants including women at risk, unaccompanied and separated children and victims of trafficking. Out of the total number, 1,419 were vulnerability assessments with vulnerable migrants including victims of trafficking, 672 were child protection assessments. In 2018, IOM Libya Protection Unit organized a series of capacity building initiatives on Child Protection, Counter Trafficking and Alternatives to Detention in parallel with general trainings on protection mainstreaming. In addition, over 90 government officials from the Libyan Ministry of Interior, Ministry of Social Affairs, Ministry of Justice, Ministry of Defense and consular authorities from migrants' countries of origin have been trained on counter trafficking, alternatives to detention and child protection. The Protection Unit has also, in the past year, arranged a number of events and capacity building sessions for 11 key NGOs in Libya.

Child Protection

In 2018, IOM has significantly ramped up their child protection programming. When working with unaccompanied and separated children, it is of key importance to ensure that their Best Interest is not only considered but becomes the guiding principle for all actions taken for both temporary and sustainable solutions. For this reason and considering the need to provide an agreed framework based on procedural safeguards for the protection of unaccompanied and separated migrant boys and girls in Libya, IOM took the lead in December 2017 to establish a Best Interest Determination (BID) Panel, in collaboration with UNICEF and UNHCR. Since then, 672 best interest assessments were conducted with children (546 Male and 126 females) flagging their vulnerability and basic needs in Libya. The assistance provided included distribution of food, clothes, NFIs, phone calls, family tracings and family reunifications. Since January 2018, 397 family tracings have been carried out, 1522 migrants have been referred internally to IOM and 416 have been referred to external agencies/ international non-governmental organizations.

Together again!

Fatima has been living and working in Libya for 16 years. She lost her husband a couple of years ago and became both mother and father to six children. “We tried to cross the sea, but you know how that story ends. My sister and five of my kids were taken to one detention centre, and my oldest daughter and I to another. Separation was the worst aspect of our failed attempt.”

Fatima was in a bad psychological state, so the detention centre management release her with her daughter after 22 days. Upon her release, she started looking for her children and sister and managed to locate them. She left her daughter in Tripoli and went to the detention centre to demand reunification with her children, which happened, but also meant that she would remain with them in the same place.

Upon a visit to the detention centre, IOM protection caseworker listened to her story and offered to contact her daughter who remained alone in Tripoli to check on her. IOM protection unit then took the lead in advocating for the release of Fatima, her sister, and her family. After discussions with the Embassy and the detention centre management, the family was released to reunite with their sister. IOM continues to follow up on this case, providing all needed support, whether psychological or in the form of food and non-food items.

“My family is now whole again, and this is the biggest joy in life.”, said Fatima to IOM caseworker as they all sat together under one roof.





Alternatives to Detention

In 2018, IOM worked on developing the alternatives to detention initiative. The host family system that was introduced under the EUTF project in 2017 has increased significantly in 2018, where 91 migrants (47 males and 39 females) have been hosted in 19 families. The team established the first safe shelter in Libya for vulnerable migrants in September 2018. The shelter was managed by a local NGO and was operational for two months and hosted 23 migrants before it had to close due to the unpredictable security challenges. IOM has since then continued its efforts in scaling up alternative solutions to detention in Libya by entering into an agreement with the international detention coalition to prepare a national action plan on how to roll out alternatives to detention throughout the country. This will be done in parallel with a capacity building plan on identification and referrals of the most vulnerable migrants from detention to alternatives to detention. As a kick-off to the 2019 scale up on ATD with the Libyan authorities, in December 2018, a workshop was organized to discuss alternatives to detention and release procedures with Ministry of Interior, Ministry of Social Affairs, the Libyan Coast Guards and representatives from embassies of countries of origin.

Key Figures

Vulnerable migrants received protection assessments: 2,164

Migrants provided with alternative to detention: 114



Health

IOM's medical team provides support to vulnerable migrants in Libya, in detention centres, disembarkation points, and urban settings. The IOM doctors and local partners conduct regular and urgent visits to assess the health conditions of migrants inside and outside detention centres. Life-saving interventions and supported very vulnerable people, including pregnant women and children. In 2018, nearly 30,000 migrants received medical assistance, including medical consultations, specialized health care, hospital referrals, and medical screenings for migrants upon disembarkation.

Throughout the year, IOM also trained 142 health care professionals in Libya, on topics included early alert and response systems, clinical management of rape, gender based violence, and other technical trainings aiming at TB treatment and prevention.

In 2018, IOM provided medical equipment to 5 detention centres and 2 disembarkation points, in addition to supporting the establishment of clinics in these facilities.

IOM also expanded its support to the Libyan community and worked closely with the Libyan Ministry of Health to improve health care services for migrants as well as IDPs. In this regard, the organization provided medical supplies and equipment to 14 health facilities across the country. The health team also distributed insulin supplies to 7 different municipalities in the west and east.

Key Figures

Migrants received medical assistance: 29,787

Detention centres provided with medical equipment: 5

Health care professional trained: 137





Hopes renewed

“I arrived to Libya carrying with me blessings from home and the same dream my friends had: disembarking in Europe and breathing the fresh air of opportunities. My hopes soon turned to dust when I set foot in the vast desert of Libya.” Said Marcel with a deep sigh after he had been laying motionless for days in a friend’s house.

“When I got here, I rented a house with a few friends, worked small jobs, and saved every bit of money I made. I thought the worst part of the journey was over, but little did I know, it was only beginning. I was walking in the street one day, and a group of men jumped from a van and tried to take me. I ran as fast as I could, and just when I thought I got away, they shot me in the leg. I was no good to them in that state, so they left me there, bleeding on the pavement.”

Marcel was taken to the hospital by passersby, where he had to spend most of what he had saved. He was then introduced to an IOM staff by his friend who had registered in the organization’s Voluntary Humanitarian Return Programme (VHR).

“It was time to go home. I left a family behind, and I can’t bear the thought of not seeing them again.” Marcel reached out to IOM to help him return home. He was assisted in obtaining a travel document and received further medical assistance. He is now in Nigeria, and he sends his love with a family selfie.









Humanitarian Border Management

IOM's Humanitarian Border Management (HBM) programme recognises the need for appropriate border management responses at times of humanitarian crisis, arising from natural and/or man-made disasters, or major cross-border migratory flows. HBM aims to improve the preparedness of the concerned border authorities for such sudden changes in cross-border movements, with the aim to protect those who cross borders in emergencies, as well as to ensure that national security and the economy of states concerned are not imperilled. Such movements in which migrants with different motivations and protection needs cross borders are often captured under the term of "mixed migration." HBM programming addresses the need to balance improvements to border security measures with the need to fully respect the human rights of all migrants.

IOM promotes the concept of Humanitarian Border Management in Libya and aims to strengthen the relationship, synergies and cooperation between border authorities and border communities. The project "Strengthening humanitarian border management principles at the border with neighbouring countries", aims at providing training, equipment and technical support for members of the Libyan Border Guards (LBG) and Immigration and Passport Officers in three locations - Ghadames, Ras Ajdir, Msaad, addressing the vulnerability and needs of regular and irregular migrants, based on HBM principles.





Migration Management

IOM works closely with the Libyan Government, including the Ministry of Labour focusing specifically on the opportunities for the Libyan labour market assessment to identify professional and economic sectors that suffer from skills and labour development. In 2018, IOM has, together with the Libyan Ministry of Labour, taken the first steps towards developing a labour migration strategy. The Libyan Minister of Labour and Capacity Building has for example hosted a workshop on developing Libya's labour market and fostering youth empowerment throughout the country. IOM supported and participated in the workshop. The event brought together Government authorities such as the Ministry of Planning, Ministry of Education and Ministry of Health, in addition to representatives from the private sector like entrepreneurs and young people. Their discussion focused on the labour market and its role in development. They also examined ways to empower youth into employment, as well as how to develop policies to regulate the labour market.





Celebrating International Migrants Day 2018

On 18 December 1990, the UN General Assembly adopted the international convention on the protection of the rights of migrant workers and members of their families. Ten years later that date was appointed International Migrants Day by the General Assembly taking into account the large and increasing number of migrants in the world. To celebrate International Migrants day in 2018, IOM in Libya organized an exhibition featuring photos and stories about migration, coupled with a discussion on migration in Libya, their stories and journeys.

The event highlighted portraits of migrants and their personal journeys and gave the chance to youth and representatives from the Libyan civil society to have a discussion with our team on the various aspects of migration in Libya. The venue “Dar Crista” had been closed for 10 years before “Makan” organization collaborated with relevant authorities to rehabilitate and reopen it. IOM decided to revive it by hosting the event in the old city in Tripoli, highlighting the significance and importance of this landmark. Our team in Benghazi also celebrated International Migrants Day with migrants in the detention centre, where they organized a football game between the migrants and the local team of “Mujahid Club”. The activity brought together migrants and Libyans passionate about football in a friendly game. Attendees of the event included representatives from the Ministry of Youth and Sports, the Sudanese and the Libyan Rugby federations.





INTERNATIONAL ORGANIZATION FOR MIGRATION

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PHOTOS

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