

A WORD FROM THE CHIEF OF MISSION

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A joint report by the International Organization for Migration (IOM) and the Ministry of Internally Displaced Persons (IDPs) Affairs, launched in March, showed that over 250,000 people were displaced in the country as a result of the conflict and the deterioration of the humanitarian situation in the past two years alone. The protracted crisis has impacted the well-being of IDPs both mentally and physically, increasing their level of vulnerability and their protection needs, especially for those living in informal settlements. According to the report, among the top priority needs were shelter, food assistance and health assistance.

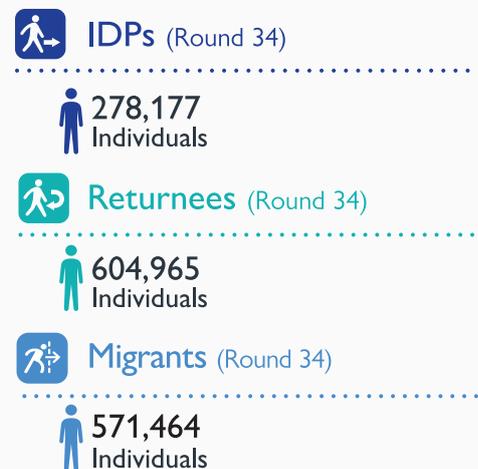
IOM supports new IDPs and returnees with emergency life-saving assistance and essential services in order to meet their basic needs, but also works to strengthen the capacities of local authorities to provide adequate standards of living and access to basic services to returnees and improve access to sustainable livelihoods and employment.

Since 5 March, a number of raids have been carried out on alleged smuggling and trafficking warehouses in Kufra and Bani Waleed, where torture for ransom and other human rights abuses have long been reported. Migrants and their families reportedly pay thousands of dollars in the hope of being released. Many have witnessed others dying in these camps from malnutrition, torture and gunshot wounds. More than 415 migrants were transferred to detention centres. While investigations are being carried out by authorities, IOM and other humanitarian actors are providing life-saving emergency assistance to victims in need of primary medical care, protection assistance, non-food items and the possibility to take part in the Voluntary Humanitarian Return (VHR) programme.

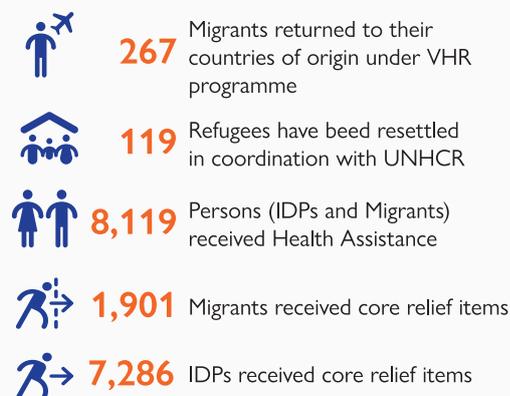
The situation in detention centres remains of extreme concern. There are currently over 4,000 men, women and children detained in dire conditions in these facilities. Several new detention centres have opened during the past months, while overcrowding and lack of basic services continue to be a recurring and alarming issue.

In March alone, 1,948 people have been intercepted or rescued and returned to Libya after trying to cross the Mediterranean Sea. The increase in recorded departures may be due to several factors, including the improvement of weather conditions, the activity of smugglers or the difficulty to access livelihood opportunities in Libya due to COVID-19.

KEY FIGURES



ASSISTANCE PROVIDED IN MARCH 2021



CENTRAL MEDITERRANEAN UPDATE



ASSISTANCE TO MIGRANTS AND LIBYAN COMMUNITIES



Throughout March, [Direct Assistance](#) teams provided core relief items, such as blankets, mattresses, hygiene kits, personal protective equipment, clothing and snacks to **1,901** migrants (1,332 in detention centres, 356 in disembarkation points and 213 in urban areas) as well as to **7,286** internally displaced persons (IDPs) in Tripoli, Benghazi, Almargeb and Misrata.



IOM [medical teams](#) provided **8,119** primary health care consultations in March to migrants, IDPs and host community members and referred 92 migrants to secondary and tertiary health care facilities for further medical investigation, treatment and management.

IOM medical teams provided primary health care consultations for **1,638** migrants (171 women and 1,467 men) in ten detention centres including Abu Rashda, Tariq Alsikka, Abu Issa, Ganfouda, Tokra, Albayda, Shahat, Algubba and Kufra, as well as providing health care consultations at Mabani, Batin Aljabal, Almarj and Ejdabya detention centres on request. During consultations, **31** migrants were referred to health care facilities for further clinical management.

Through continued support to Shouhada Abduljalel, 17 February, Alsiraj and Al-Aoeanea primary health care centres, IOM provided **847** consultations to IDPs and host community members (456 women and 391 men) and supplied the centres with medicines, medical consumables and information, education and communication materials on COVID-19. IOM's medical mobile team supported health care services for migrants, IDPs and conflict affected populations in Hay Alandalous, Ghot Alshaal, Ain Zara, Alsirraj, Souq Aljumaa, Abdulsalam, Al-Aoeanea, Ubari, Janzour and Tajoura. Consultations for **2,991** migrants (416 women and 2,575 men) were provided, out of which 22 migrants were referred to secondary and tertiary health care facilities for clinical management.

Through IOM's Migrant Resource and Response Mechanism (MRRM), medical teams conducted consultations in urban areas in Zwara, Sabha, Qatroun, Tripoli, at the Hay Alandalous office and in Bani Waleed, for **2,643** migrants (979 women and 1,664 men) out of which 35 migrants were referred to health care facilities. Medical teams also provided medical services at Abusitta, Sabratha and Zwara disembarkation points, for **1,709** migrants (92 women, 1,564 men and 53 children) rescued/intercepted at sea. Among them 113 migrants received medical screenings and triage upon arrival and 3 migrants were referred to health care facilities for clinical management.



Vulnerability assessments led by the [Protection unit](#) were provided to **148** migrants (83 women, 53 men, 11 boys and one girl) 112 of which (73 women and 39 men) required in-depth vulnerability assessments. Child protection assessments were made for 11 boys and one girl, and 24 victim of trafficking assessments were made for 14 men and 10 women. Furthermore, 127 migrants (50 women and 77 men) were screened in different locations in Libya.

Over the month, Protection teams distributed 40 blankets and mattresses, 20 food baskets, 19 hygiene kits and 4 colouring kits to 45 migrants in need. The team also referred 28 migrants (14 women and 14 men) to UNHCR, the Norwegian Refugee Council and the Danish Refugee Council, as well as **303** migrants (89 women and 214 men) to IOM's Migrant Resource and Response Mechanism, Voluntary Humanitarian Return programme, Mental Health and Psychosocial Support, and Migration Health unit.

Protection teams paid **34** follow-up visits to check on the welfare and well-being of 259 migrants and ten outreach visits to four urban areas in Tripoli, Misrata, Zwara and Benghazi. Protection teams accessed Shara'a Alzawya, Ganfouda, Abuslim, Al Mabani, Al Kufra, and Triq Al Sikka detention centres and were present during seven rescue operations that took place at Tripoli main port, Zwara and Sabratha disembarkation points to provide protection monitoring services to migrants rescued/intercepted at sea.

The Protection unit organized seven training sessions held in Tripoli, Zwara and Misrata on Assistance to Vulnerable Migrants and Community Based Protection for 64 community leaders and mobilizers and eight participants from the Migration Health programme.



[Mental Health and Psychosocial Support \(MHPSS\)](#) services were provided to **395** migrants (51 women, 239 men, 37 girls and 68 boys) at IOM's centre in Hay Alandalous and across urban locations in Tripoli and Zwara, including detention centres, health facilities and at disembarkation points.

Over the month, the MHPSS team accompanied IOM medical teams to different locations and conducted a varied set of activities, including individual basic counselling and psychological first aid, psychosocial awareness sessions, art-based psychosocial activities and group readings on COVID-19 awareness for children and their families.

MHPSS teams also conducted 25 follow-up psychosocial support sessions throughout March, including sessions for migrants with mental health conditions and their caregivers, and migrants who experienced distressful events in Tripoli and Zwara. The MHPSS teams conducted 31 referrals to other IOM teams.

Through the MHPSS helpline, migrants continued to access mental health and psychosocial support services, receiving 19 calls from Jadu, Tripoli and Zwara, where migrants from Ethiopia, The Gambia, Guinea, Mali, Nigeria and Sudan were provided with remote counselling and psychosocial support services.

To mark National Children's Day in Libya on 21 March, MHPSS, Protection and MRRM teams facilitated art-based psychosocial activities for adolescents and recreational awareness activities for children on COVID-19 at the Hay Alandalous centre, Multakana centre and at the Sudanese school. The activities targeted 58 children and adolescents (26 girls and 32 boys) from Eritrea, Côte d'Ivoire, Libya, Nigeria, Sierra Leone and Sudan.

The MHPSS technical working group (MHPSS TWG) chaired by IOM and the International Medical Corps, conducted their monthly meeting on 16 March with active participation of 35 members. The MHPSS TWG also published its first [quarterly newsletter](#) and continued to provide technical support and guidance to MHPSS actors in Libya.

 During the month, **Migrant Resource and Response Mechanism (MRRM)** teams in Tripoli, Zwara, Bani Waleed, Sabha and Qatroun reached **8,419 migrants** (3,174 women and 5,245 men) mainly from Chad, Niger, Sudan, Nigeria and Ghana. Among them 4,516 migrants (including 621 households) received non-food items, 541 clothing kits, 1,347 hygiene kits, 41 solar lamps, 317 mattresses, 1,151 winter blankets, 352 diapers, 70 sanitary pads and 161 kitchen sets, while 3,903 migrants (including 508 households) received 710 individual food kits and 456 family food kits.

MRRM teams conducted 174 **#Informedmigrants** awareness-raising sessions for **1,602 migrants** (413 women and 1,189 men) in Tripoli, Zwara, Bani Waleed, Sabha and Qatroun and distributed 731 **#Informedmigrants** booklets and six posters in Arabic, English and French.

In March, IOM Libya organized the second edition of Certificate in Migration Governance in collaboration with the Centre for Migration and Refugees' studies at the American University of Cairo (AUC) and IOM Egypt. The course was held over six days and included participants from governmental and non-governmental institutions and covered a range of migration related topics aiming to strengthen participants' understanding of migration trends, leading to safe and well-managed migration, in full respect of human rights.

 Over the month, two feasibility assessments were conducted by **Community Stabilization (CS)** in collaboration with IOM's Displacement Tracking Matrix, in Alsharguya and Bent Beyya areas to understand the context, local dynamics and priority needs in these municipalities.

In March, local organization Athar CSO, completed the Sabha Women's Salon, providing participants with the opportunity to increase their knowledge and expertise in a range of areas, as well as have positive interaction across tribal, ethnic and social divides. In the past four months, more than 100 women attended interactive sessions on social, legal and economic awareness. The final ceremony was held on International Women's Day, 8 March, and was attended by more than 200 people representing 11 different tribes and numerous nationalities.

In collaboration with the Asarya company, 14 young people (6 women and 8 men) attended a Training of Trainers session on peacebuilding, facilitation and life skills under the Learning for Life initiative. After the training, participants implemented cascade sessions with more than 50 peers to share what they learned and contribute to local dialogue and peacebuilding initiatives.

To enhance better access to health care for all communities and increase the capacity of the local public health sector, over the month IOM provided medical and administrative equipment to the following public health care facilities in **Benghazi**.

Al Kish polyclinic served over 600,000 people in 2019, of which 15 per cent were migrants, with free health care services, such as vaccinations, gynecology and emergency first aid. To support the clinic to provide a wider range of medical services, IOM provided furniture, medical and administrative equipment and air conditioning units.

Al Hawari Psychiatric and Mental Hospital is the only facility providing mental health care in the east and southeast of Libya. On 17 March, medical equipment, two prefabricated classrooms with equipment and furniture (one to be used as a training room for medical students and the other as anatomy laboratory) were handed over to the hospital. These materials will be used to train 30 students to work in the hospital as specialized nurses and to accommodate an additional 30 students next year.

A medical refrigerator, electrocardiogram, ultrasound devices, surgical tools, oxygen regulators and other medical equipment was donated to Alfwehat polyclinic, which provided medical services to more than 140,000 people, of which 13 per cent were migrants in 2019. IOM also donated essential medical equipment, such as a spectrophotometer, trolley, patient isolation screen and blood pressure monitors among others, to Aljadeeda polyclinic in Al Laethi area. With the donation of these items, IOM aims to increase the capacity of these health care facilities in the region.

IOM LIBYA'S ACTIVITIES ARE SUPPORTED BY





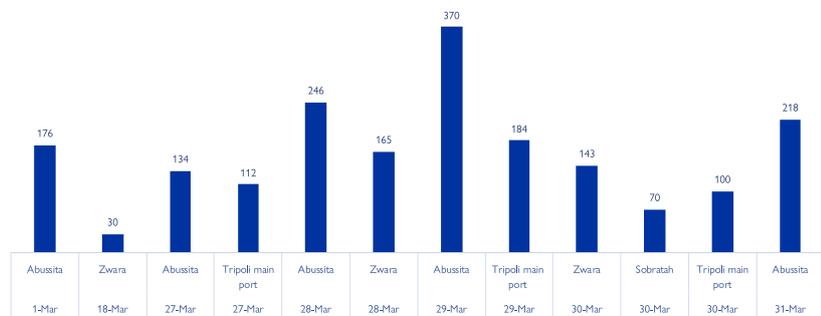
IN March 2021

1,948 Migrants Disembarked in Libya

1,750 Men **107** Women
42 Boys **19** Girls

*No gender data available for 30 individuals

Disembarkation Location and Date (March 2021)



In 2020

11,891

DISEMBARKED IN LIBYA



381 Deaths **597** Missing

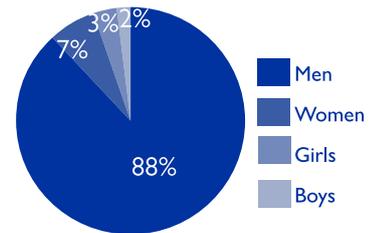
In 2021 so far

5,904 DISEMBARKED

5,172 Men **413** Women
189 Boys **84** Girls

*No gender data available for 46 individuals

33 Bodies Retrieved **95** Missing



Monthly Disembarkation Trends 2019, 2020 and 2021



Disclaimer: Figures based on updates from IOM Libya Search and Rescue (SAR) data, compiled from disembarkations in Libya. For detailed data on deaths and missing migrants please refer to the missing migrants project. (<https://missingmigrants.iom.int/>)
 Figures on Maritime incidents in Libya are estimates based on initial reports at the time of each incident, and are regularly updated as more information becomes available.