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Information bulletin 3

Libya: Civil Unrest

 International Federation
of Red Cross and Red Crescent Societies

Date of disaster: 26 July, 2014

Date of issue: 28 July, 2014

Point of contact: Muftah Etwilb, Head of IFRC North Africa Office

Host National Society: Lybian Red Crescent Society

This bulletin is being issued for information only, and reflects the current situation and details available at this time. The Libyan Red crescent, with the support of the International Federation of Red Cross and Red Crescent Societies (IFRC) and other partners, has determined that external assistance is not required, at this time and is therefore not seeking funding or other assistance from donors.

The situation

The situation in Libya has reached a critical level, and there are concerns about the escalation of violence in all the country's regions which could lead to worsening the humanitarian crisis. Heavy clashes started on 16 July, with the recent systematic attempts to control Libya's main international airport in Tripoli since.

The ministry of health figures

show that at least 97 people have been killed in clashes that have taken place daily since 13 July; among them civilians caught in fire.

An airport official confirmed that extensive damages to planes and airport infrastructure had already been done in the continuous offensive and it would take months to get the airport back into better conditions.

People in Benghazi and Tripoli have been facing regular electricity cuts, Internet interruption and communications, in Tripoli fuel shortage and recently water cuts have affected the livelihood of people.

On 26 July, the U. S. Embassy in Tripoli, has temporarily relocated all of the personnel out of Libya. This was done due to the ongoing violence resulting from clashes between armed groups in the immediate vicinity of the embassy. The United Kingdom and France Called on Its Citizens to Leave Libya Immediately.

In Benghazi fighting has erupted in May claiming hundreds of deaths and casualties among them civilians, civilian properties have been hit by rockets; Fighting intensified last few days with frequent attacks on the special forces camps mainly in Bu-Attni area ; LRCS reported 32 were killed and more than 100 wounded due to the clashes on Saturday the 26 July, 2014.



LRCS dispatched relief items to the affected families by the clashes in Benghazi. Photo: LRCS

The increasing level of random shelling on several residential areas, mainly in Tripoli and Benghazi has led to negative impact on the livelihood of the population and the public services.

According to a statement issued by the Ministry of Health; those events may lead to the inability of the ministry and hospitals to provide services, adding the lack of fuel and the insecurity of the health personnel and lack of protection for them.

In Benghazi; the presence of some hospitals in crossfire areas (such as El Hawary) made response to the humanitarian and health needs of the population very difficult due to the high threats from random shelling across the city. Al'Jala'a trauma hospital; which is a specialized in dealing with accidents and emergencies has closed its doors over a month ago because of the renewed clashes between the armed parties to control it.

Red Cross and Red Crescent action

In line with humanitarian role and the mandate of the Libyan Red Crescent Society (LRCS), the efforts of LRCS staff and volunteers are still ongoing to help the affected population mainly in Tripoli and Benghazi.

The LRCS continues to provide on-site First aid, evacuation and ambulance transportation services in addition relief to the injured and those affected by the clashes.

Since the start of the clashes a crisis committee was formed and consists of the directors of departments and heads of sectors at the HQ level to closely monitor the situation and take necessary actions. A contingency plan

was developed to accommodate the affected population in case of displacement. In Benghazi, three schools were identified and prepared as shelters. Few families from the areas of Buatni, Laithi and river road have already arrived to the a school named 10 march, prepared by the Libyan red crescent;

In Tripoli, the LRCS branch has intensified its work providing assistance and guidance to families fleeing conflict zones in the area of Benghsheer. They have been also involved in evacuating and transferring the casualties of the conflict to nearby hospitals, LRCS branch has also managed to transport medical supplies from the central medical warehouse to Ali Askar hospital.

LRCS volunteers in the branches of Almarj, Alabiar, and Toukra have also been working hard to evacuate and facilitate the transfer and reception of the casualties in their areas.

During the last week, LRCS in Benghazi evacuated more than 30 dead bodies in conflict zones in addition to other unidentified bodies have been reported in several areas of the city and transferred to the Medical Center of the city. LRCS volunteers continue to disseminate the awareness on Unexploded Ordnance (UXO) and conducting blood donation campaigns.

In the middle of such difficult circumstances LRCS volunteers continued its humanitarian work to support the most vulnerable and the internally displaced people in Tripoli, Benghazi, Nalut, Zawia, Sebha, Zlitan and other branches.

The IFRC continues to communicate with Libyan RC, and the ICRC team relocated temporarily to Tunis, to monitor the situation closely and to determine further actions if needed.

The IFRC North Africa regional office in Tunis has since the start of the year surged its preparedness and support to Tunisian Red Crescent to respond to any possible escalation in Libya which could lead to population movement from Libya to Tunis.



LRCS transferred more than 30 dead bodies. Photo: LRCS

Contact information

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[Click here](#)

1. Click [here](#) to return to the title page

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All IFRC assistance seeks to adhere to the Code of Conduct for the International Red Cross and Red Crescent Movement and Non-Governmental Organizations (NGO's) in Disaster Relief and the Humanitarian Charter and Minimum Standards in Disaster Response (Sphere) in delivering assistance to the most vulnerable.

The IFRC's vision is to inspire, encourage, facilitate and promote at all times all forms of humanitarian activities by National Societies, with a view to preventing and alleviating human suffering, and thereby contributing to the maintenance and promotion of human dignity and peace in the world.

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The IFRC's work is guided by Strategy 2020 which puts forward three strategic aims:

1. Save lives, protect livelihoods, and strengthen recovery from disaster and crises.
2. Enable healthy and safe living.
3. Promote social inclusion and a culture of non-violence and peace.