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Information bulletin 4

Libya: Complex Emergency

 International Federation
of Red Cross and Red Crescent Societies

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| Date of issue: August 2 nd , 2014 | Point of contact: Muftah Etwilb, Regional Representative North Africa |
| Host National Society: Libyan Red Crescent Society | |
| Number of people affected: 2,000,000 | |
| N° of National Societies currently involved in the operation): Libyan Red Crescent Society, Tunisian 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 Society, with the support of the International Federation of Red Cross and Red Crescent Societies (IFRC), has determined that external assistance is not required, and is therefore not seeking funding or other assistance from donors at this time.



LRCS staff and volunteers unloading relief items to displaced families in Tripoli. Photo: LRCS

The situation

Benghazi, then Tripoli became a battleground since end of May and hence, people living in the areas directly affected by the fighting are trying to move to safer areas, while others are trapped. Libyan Red

Crescent Society (LRCS) helped evacuate those trapped as some were locked until the fighting calmed down putting their lives at an extreme risk. Libyan Ministry of Health (MOH) has announced 214 killed and more than 900 wounded, due to the last two weeks of clashes, on another statement MOH warned of possible collapse of the health system, should the situation continue, this came after the announcement of the evacuation of thousands of Philippine workers in Libya, 3,000 among them work in the health system.

Libyan people tend to have enough food reserves at homes; however, since the strategic warehouses, public and private, are situated in conflict areas that resulted in the shortage in the food supply chain; in addition, fuel shortage aggravates the situation. If the situation continues this may put at least 2,000,000 people at risk of acute food shortage. Medical supplies are also facing the same risk as their warehouses are also in the conflict areas. Libyan Red Crescent is facilitating the delivery of medical supplies to hospitals; private pharmacies have also been affected by the conflict. LRCS branches in Zawia, Khoms and Zwara reported difficulties in getting baby milk formulas and some medicines for chronic diseases.

Benghazi became quieter over the last two days, this allowed the Libyan Red Crescent volunteers to move the dead bodies from the battlefield; the medical warehouse of the MOH was hit by a

rocket leading to a measurable damage, LRCS volunteers were mobilized to empty the warehouse and distribute it to the hospitals. LRCS Benghazi branch has also reported at least two children killed and four wounded while playing with an explosive device.

At the western border of the country daily crossing amounts to 5,000- 6,000, which is still within the normal limits. However, 4,000 to 5,000 people are third country nationals, most of them Egyptians, who are stranded on the Libyan side; this number keeps increasing as LRCS branch of Zwara witnessed a frequent flow of buses full with Egyptian nationals heading to Ras Ejdir.

On the days 31st July and 1st August, LRCS Zwara branch reported evacuation of four wounded and seven minor casualties from the border areas due to friction with security forces in both sides. As a result strict preventive measures are being taken by Tunisian authorities lead to temporary closure of the border, crossing for humanitarian cases has been exempted.

Red Cross and Red Crescent action

Libyan Red Crescent branch in Benghazi have evacuated 57 bodies this week to Benghazi medical center and has activated its Restoring Family Links (RFL) team. The team has received 13 requests, two of those missing were found dead. the branch has also surged their activities regarding the awareness of the remnants of war.

LRCS branch in Zwara provided 2,000 packs of water (18,000 litres of water) to the stranded migrants. In addition, seven trucks, each containing 12,000 litres of water, were provided by the branches of Sebrata, Agilat and Ejmail. Zwara branch has also received 200 displaced families from Tripoli; all were hosted with resident families and in empty apartments.

In Zawya, the LRCS branch has taken care of more than 700 families arrived from Tripoli affected areas, about 100 of them were hosted in the student hostels of the university. Zawya branch has also helped 200 African students from the Islamic Call University, they are being hosted by the Zwaya Alsofih and some mosques.

LRCS branch in Tripoli is an active member of the crisis management committee created by Tripoli local council. LRCS Tripoli branch volunteers continue to assist families seeking safe areas, and facilitate the transportation of medical supply.

LRCS Nalut branch has also received displaced families, mostly hosting them with host families. They also monitor the bordercrossing of Wazen Dhaiba due to the temporary closure of the northern Ras-Ejdair crossing, they are also monitoring the situation of displaced people in other cities and villages of Nfoosa Mountain.

The IFRC is in continuous contact and communication with the Libyan Red Crescent Society (LRCS), and the Tunisian Red Crescent Society (TRCS), monitoring the situation. Urgent funds were made available to the TRCS to respond immediately to the urgent food aid needed on the border. TRCS trained volunteers have been deployed to the border area. TRCS teams will work



LRCS Volunteers distributing food and water for the stranded at the borders. Photo: LRCS

with the LRCS volunteers on the other side to ensure proper reach out. TRCS is playing active part in the National contingency plan; the IFRC is contributing to this plan as well.

The IFRC continues contacts with the ICRC delegations of Tunis and Libya, to monitor the situation and coordinate responses and support the two National societies.

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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.