

1. CRITICAL ISSUES FOR CHILDREN

Nearly 100,000 people have already fled across borders to escape from the violence and the rapidly spreading conflict in Libya. The eastern part of Libya is under the control of the anti-government groups whilst the majority of the western part of Libya would appear to remain under the control of the government. Several cities, including Tripoli, have become the theatre of confrontations, as tribes seem to be joining the opposition forces

Up to 40,000 people have crossed the border from Libya into Tunisia¹, whilst an estimated 55,000 people have crossed into Egypt² bringing the overall number of population displacement across borders close to 100,000. This first wave is mostly constituted of men, primarily returning nationals or third country migrants. As the conflict continues within Libya, however, growing numbers of Libyans are fleeing the country with their families, bringing increasing numbers of very vulnerable families and a higher proportion of women and children. Whilst the movement across borders on the Egyptian side has reduced significantly, the outflow into Tunisia is increasing and there are also reports of people gathered nearby the Libyan side of the border trying to cross into Tunisia.

Other than media reports, only a few established communication channels exist. The accuracy of any information relating to the situation in Libya is therefore uncertain and any associated analysis of the probability of the future events problematic. Should the uncertain political and security situation continue, the number of casualties is expected to increase in the coming days and weeks. Already, fatalities are thought to run into the hundreds—probably thousands—with the vast majority reported to be civilians.

Humanitarian Needs

The high level of insecurity in Libya has made it difficult so far for the UN to undertake any on-site assessments. Over the next few days, joint UN assessment missions (UNHCR, IOM, UNICEF, WFP, WHO, OCHA) will be deployed to eastern and western parts of Libya as soon as security allows. The absence of a strong network of national NGOs and community-based organizations also renders the collection of data from secondary sources challenging. Insecurity is likely to worsen in the coming days and weeks.

While there are no confirmed reports of large scale humanitarian needs within Libya, there are growing concerns over the availability and accessibility of medical care for the injured, as well as sustained access to basic services throughout the country as the conflict continues, preventing access of public workers to facilities as well as blocking supply routes for basic commodities. Overall, while the details of the situation in country remain erratic, significant human rights abuse and protection concerns are expected, as is a significant disruption of health care and access to facilities. It is equally anticipated that the fighting may have destroyed parts of basic infrastructure and public facilities in country, particularly in large cities where fighting has or is occurring.

UNICEF urgently requires **US\$ 7.2 million** to respond to the immediate needs of women and children affected by the violence in Libya and the impending threat of a larger scale humanitarian crisis. Considering the uncertainty of the situation on the ground, and the difficulty in anticipating its impact in terms of humanitarian needs within Libya as well as population movements towards Tunisia and Egypt, the current response plan considers an eight week planning horizon only.

Should the Libyan context evolve towards more predictable outcomes, adjusted planning documents will be shared as required. The Immediate Needs Document builds on inter-agency preparedness activities and will be integrated into any forthcoming inter-agency regional appeal.

2. UNICEF ACTIONS TO DATE

UNICEF has started mobilising human resource surge capacity from its Regional Office and HQ. Two technical teams have already been deployed to Egypt and Tunisia, covering emergency coordination, operation

¹18,000 of them Tunisians, 15,000 Egyptians, 2,500 Libyans and 2,500 Chinese, and a mix of other nationalities.

²46,000 Egyptians, 9,000 foreigners, of which about 2,000 from Libya

management, child protection, and WASH. Necessary arrangements are also being made to prepare for an operational presence in Libya. An immediate response team of 14 staff has been assembled and is now standing by for deployment to the ground as soon as the situation permits. Emergency supplies are currently being chartered on both sides of the border to respond to the humanitarian needs in the three countries.

The UNICEF Middle East and North Africa Regional Office (MENARO) participates in regular inter-agency emergency preparedness and response discussions on the situation in Libya and its implications for the work of humanitarian organizations in the region, and coordinating with international partners for cohesive response.

Tunisia

UNICEF is working closely with UN agencies, the International Organization for Migration (IOM), the Tunisian Red Crescent (TRC), Ministry of Health, Ministry of Women³ and Ministry of Social Affairs. UNICEF is in contact with national authorities⁴ who have informed local authorities at the border of the procedures to follow and persons to contact⁵ in case of child protection related issues including the presence of unaccompanied minors. From initial feedback, however, this national response may not be fully sufficient to meet needs. UNICEF is looking into possible options for interventions and is identifying national partners present in the field.

Egypt

UNICEF is part of the joint mission to the Egypt/Libya border that left Cairo on Friday 25 February. A mission report and recommendations for next steps will be available soon.

UNICEF Egypt is in contact with government counterparts, especially the Ministry of Health and the Egyptian Red Crescent. In partnership with the latter, UNICEF is now expanding the psycho-social support program, including child-friendly spaces, to the border area to support women and children crossing from Libya. As necessary, this will be expanded to support family tracing and reunification for unaccompanied minors and hygiene and sanitation activities, as well as limited support to prevent malnutrition. So far the Ministry of Health has indicated that they do not need assistance, and they have reinforced the medical capacity around the Salloum area. Concerns also exist about the use of child mercenaries inside Libya from other countries and potential gender-based violence.

3. UNICEF PLANNED ACTIONS

The situation in Libya remains extremely fluid. The following planned actions are based on a scenario where fighting may continue another 1-2 weeks with high numbers of casualties and widespread human rights violations, particularly in the west of the country. The estimated number of people fleeing the country is likely to rise into the hundreds of thousands moving towards Tunisia, with a growing number of Libyan families asking for temporary refugee status; the number of people moving towards Egypt has already dropped significantly. According to this scenario, fighting would quickly subside, leaving in its wake banditry and human rights abuses linked to revenge, retribution or criminality. Despite security risks, access to the west of the country, especially Tripoli, would improve dramatically. National partners at all levels may request an immediate increase in humanitarian assistance from the international community, with medical assistance and human rights protection focus at first, followed closely by an urgent need for rehabilitation of affected public facilities (health centers, schools, police and military barracks and basic infrastructure), giving way to a significant inter-agency appeal for early recovery and reconstruction.

³ Also in charge of childhood

⁴National child protection delegate and Ministry of Social Affairs

⁵Local Child protection delegates and social services

Based on the current information available and observed trends, UNICEF will consider the following working figures for the next coming month:

Country	Location	Target Population for UNICEF interventions
Tunisia	Ras Jdir	50,000
	Diba	10,000
Egypt	Salloum	30,000
Libya	Initially Eastern parts (Benghazi) – will expand with access-	100, 000
Total		190,000

A two-step approach is proposed for March-April:

I. Tunisia and Egypt

In Tunisia, the immediate priority will be to provide water, sanitation and hygiene services to the people who have already crossed the border, complementing the national authorities as well as IOM's support to migrant populations and UNHCR's support to refugees.

In Tunisia and Egypt, UNICEF is also currently strengthening its capacity to respond in all sectors, pre-positioning stock for possible outflow of Libyan families and specific efforts to reinforce child protection capacity. The child protection interventions will include psychosocial support and family tracing and reunification efforts in anticipation of increasing numbers of unaccompanied or separated children. In the event that such population outflow does not occur, stocks pre-positioned in Tunisia and Egypt would then be utilized to respond to the humanitarian needs of the population inside Libya.

UNICEF will provide booklets for psycho social support, recreation kits, and supplies to support family tracing and reunification. UNICEF further stands ready to scale up its support for the provision of immediate basic health supplies (emergency health kits, first aid kits, vaccines and oral rehydration salts), support to prevention and treatment of malnutrition for under five children (ready to use foods, micro nutrients, nutrition communications), and hygiene and sanitation (hygiene kits). Both Egypt and Tunisia UNICEF country offices have solid expertise around child protection and psycho-social support. They also maintain a comprehensive knowledge of the network of partners in country, which will allow them to rapidly step up their emergency response capacity in country.

UNICEF will deploy small teams of national staff from respective UNICEF teams within host countries along with tailored international expertise. Supported by the provision of emergency relief supplies (covering from 10,000 to 50,000 vulnerable depending on the items), these teams will primarily act in support of national response capacity and IOM/UNHCR with their recognized mandates and leadership on migration and refugees.

II. Libya

As soon as events in Libya allow, likely prompting reduced pressure on population movements outside of Libya, the focus of UNICEF interventions will fairly quickly shift towards response activities within Libya. This will start with the deployment of a core response team and establishment of a UNICEF operational presence when security permits.

A similar initial focus around child protection and psychosocial support will give a clear mission focus to UNICEF entering Libya once the current fighting will have subsided. It is equally expected that UNICEF's knowledge and added value in WASH, nutrition and emergency health care may be required in country, and will need to be supported by solid technical expertise on the ground, until strong partnership systems have been established with national and international partners.

III. Regional office support

UNICEF Middle East and North Africa Regional Office (MENARO) will provide immediate and critical support to both Egypt and Tunisia UNICEF country offices through the deployment of emergency specialists to both the Tunisia and Egypt border crossing points with immediate effect for an initial period of 7-10 days. As needed, these can be complemented by surge support in the areas of security, child protection, education, WASH, and health and nutrition. Additional support can and will be sought from other country offices in the region through the MENA regional Rapid Response Mechanism.

4. FUNDING REQUIREMENTS (March-April 2011)

Urgent funding is needed to meet the immediate needs of children and women affected by the Libyan crisis over the coming two months. The immediate needs as noted in this IND will be integrated into any upcoming inter-agency appeal. At the time of drafting this IND, the timing of the appeal, its scope, and development process were still to be determined. UNICEF has already advanced US\$ 3 million as a reimbursable loan to Tunisia, Egypt and the Regional in order to initiate an immediate and effective response to the Libya crisis.

Table 1. Estimated funding requirements from March to April 2011*

Sector	Funding requirements (US\$)				
	Tunisia	Egypt	Libya	MENARO	TOTAL
Child Protection	321,000	300,000	600,000	37,000	1,258,000
Water, Sanitation and Hygiene (WASH)	1,766,000	400,000	600,000	32,000	2,798,000
Health and Nutrition	615,000	650,000	792,000	32,000	2,039,000
Coordination and Logistics	123,000	150,000	610,000	166,000	1,099,000
Total**	2,825,000	1,500,000	2,602,000	267,000	7,194,000

* The total includes a maximum recovery rate of 7%. The actual recovery rate on contributions will be calculated in accordance with UNICEF's Executive Board Decision 2006/7 dated 9 June 2006.

**Funds received against this appeal will be used to respond to both the immediate and medium-term needs of children and women as outlined above. If UNICEF should receive funds in excess of the medium-term funding requirements for this emergency, UNICEF will use those funds to support other, under-funded emergencies.

Further information on the UNICEF emergency programme in Libya, Egypt and Tunisia can be obtained from:

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