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Libya Humanitarian Situation Report



Situation in Numbers

Highlights

- While UNSMIL continues to facilitate talks aimed at ending Libya's deepening political crisis, clashes continue around the country. The attack on the high-profile Corinthia hotel in January 2015, and the increased presence and activity of Islamic State militants marks another milestone in the country's deteriorating security situation (recently marked by the beheading of 21 Egyptians and the kidnapping of a number of other oil workers).
- Since July 2014, UNICEF Libya Country Office (LCO) and the UN team have been confronted with limited access to implementing partners on the ground to assess humanitarian needs and reach children across Libya.
- Engagement with government counterparts has been further complicated by the legitimacy dispute between multiple political and military factions.
- Despite these challenges, LCO joined with other UN agencies to commission a joint assessment, which included a focus on child protection, needs and access to education. This survey was completed in January 2015.
- A mapping assessment for Psychosocial Support needs by UNICEF's partner Al Saffa center, revealed that among the 612 children examined in one camp in Tripoli, 167 need further psychosocial support and care.
- UNICEF continues to advocate for incorporating child rights into the new constitution and has submitted a concept note to the Chairperson of Libya's Constitutional Drafting Assembly during a meeting in Tunisia.
- UNICEF's programme in Libya has focused largely on capacity building for local NGOs. Through cooperation with Libyan counterparts inside Libya, LCO has managed to conduct several meetings, trainings, workshops and consultation trainings in Zarzis, Tunisia, near the Libyan – Tunisian borders
- UNICEF LCO has conducted coordination meetings with stakeholders and donors for continuous updates on the current situation and on UNICEF activities in Libya.
- Since fighting has intensified in 2014, UNICEF has focused increasingly on strengthening the protection and psychosocial well-being of youth and children (girls and boys) affected by the conflict.

Funding

Funding Requirements				
Appeal Sector	Requirements	Funds received*	Funding gap	
			\$	%
Child Protection	\$600,000	382,934	\$217,066	64%
Education	\$700,000	0	\$700,000	100%
Total	1,300,000	382,934	917,066	71%

*Figures refer to emergency funds received against the humanitarian appeal. Programme results have been realised through a combination of emergency funds and regular programme funds.

March 2015

393,000

Internally Displaced People
(UNHCR December 2014)

290,400

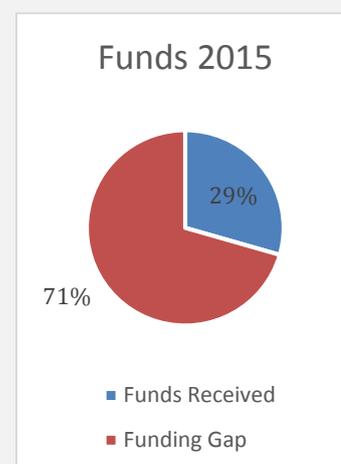
Children affected (boys & girls)
(UNHCR December 2014)

20%

School-aged IDPs who do not have access to education
(Inter Agency Assessment January 2015)

UNICEF Appeal 2015

US\$ 1.3 million



Situation Overview & Humanitarian Needs

In early 2011, a populist uprising mounted into civil conflict and culminated in the ousting and death of former Libyan leader Muammar Gaddafi. While this political transition was widely backed by the international community, it has been followed by a period of political uncertainty as the groups who toppled Colonel Gaddafi have begun to compete with each other for political and military power. This rivalry has turned increasingly violent and led to the ousting of the internationally recognized government by an alliance of Islamist militias called “Libya Dawn” in July of 2014. Since then violent clashes have continued in Benghazi, Tripoli, and other parts of the country. The United Nations Support Mission in Libya (UNSMIL) is hosting a new round of political dialogue that seeks to end Libya’s deepening political and security crisis, and reach agreement on managing the remainder of the transitional period. The decision to convene these talks follows extensive consultations with all the major Libyan stakeholders.

The escalation of violence has led to civilian casualties, displacement, destruction of public infrastructure and the disruption of basic social services and child protection systems. Intense fighting in urban areas of Tripoli and Benghazi has exposed children to high levels of violence and has displaced an estimated 393,000 people including an estimated 290,000 women and children. Many have experienced the loss of relatives or friends, have been forcibly displaced or have had their homes or possessions damaged or destroyed. In light of the deteriorating situation and related child protection concerns, UNICEF is seeking to enable the provision and strengthening of community-based protection and psychosocial support of children affected by the armed conflict through the implementation of the Child Friendly Spaces (CFS), and community messaging on child protection and psychosocial support, in cooperation with local partners and non-governmental organizations.

Libya is an upper-middle income country with a government that has had a strong track record in basic service delivery. It has been ranked 64 out of 185 in the UN Human Development Index,¹ and has historically provided extensive subsidies and boasted nearly universal access to education and health services. Thanks to this existing infrastructure, the country has been able to weather a number of shocks (including many of the effects of the 2011 revolution). But as successive transitional governance arrangements have been unable to consolidate their hold on power, the existing system is being increasingly stressed. Oil production, which pays for 95% of government expenditures,² has plummeted, forcing Libyan officials to run up a \$22 billion deficit in 2014. Forecasts for the 2015 deficit are even worse, as a drop in global oil prices compounds the shortfall in production.³ Unless the political crisis is resolved, these increasing financial constraints could pose serious risks to Libya’s ability to continue to provide essential services.

Humanitarian leadership and coordination

While clusters were activated in 2011, the humanitarian situation did not require the continuation of a clustered response as the country moved into a phase of post-conflict needs assessment, led by UNSMIL. The United Nations Mission in Libya is structurally integrated, so the Deputy Special Representative of the Secretary General (DSRSG) also functions as the Resident Coordinator/ Humanitarian Coordinator. Sector-level coordination generally takes the form of technical working groups, coordinated by agencies with relevant technical and programmatic expertise. Within this integrated structure, UNICEF has provided technical leadership in the areas of education and child protection.

Humanitarian Strategy

During the initial post-revolution period there was a consensus that the transitional Libyan government would be able to meet the humanitarian and reconstruction needs resulting from the 2011 conflict. UN agencies were asked for high-level technical support, which was provided to relevant line-ministries. The UNICEF country programme has therefore prioritized system-strengthening and enhancing government capacities to respond to the needs of children and adolescents in Libya.

¹ United Nations Development Programme, 2013 *United Nations Human Development Report*, <http://www.ft.com> 1

² Financial Times, December 11, 2014: <http://www.ft.com> 2

³ <http://www.ft.com> 3

In addition, UNICEF has advocated for the protection of vulnerable populations (such as women and children from Tawargah who were displaced during the 2011 fighting). As the fighting has intensified since mid 2014, UNICEF has focused increasingly on strengthening the protection and psychosocial well-being of youth and children (girls and boys) affected by the conflict. Targeting has focused on select IDP locations where community-based child protection and psychosocial support activities have been implemented. Relying on the standards laid out in the CRC and CCCs, UNICEF has sought to ensure that children's rights (boys and girls) are protected during and immediately after localized conflict.

While UNICEF continues to hope and advocate for a negotiated resolution to Libya's crisis, the security situation seems to show signs of continued deterioration. As such, concerns about renewed humanitarian needs are growing, and UNICEF is reviewing its preparedness to respond to a sudden escalation of needs. This is being done in close coordination with implementing partners on the ground as well as other UN agencies.

Summary Analysis of Programme response

Child Protection:

- Scout leaders from different geographical areas in Libya are ready, following a five-day training course, to provide children affected by the armed conflict with psychosocial support. The trained Scout leaders will incorporate the acquired knowledge and techniques in their daily work with children in highly affected areas and among internally displaced people. Through playing as the key tool for psychosocial support, the leaders will be able to identify traumatized children due to the conflict. The intervention aims at establishing a referral system for psychosocial support in Libya.
- 63 Libyan professionals working with children in conflict with the law participated in two training workshops on restorative justice and the use of non-custodial measures for children in Zarzis, Tunisia.
- 50 Libyan Police College officers attended two five-day workshops on Child Rights and Child Protection in Zarzis, Tunisia. The UNICEF-organized workshops focused on international standards and best practices in handling children in contact with the law including those in conflict situations. The workshops are a continuation of the work started in November 2013 with the Libyan Police on Juvenile Justice and Child Protection.
- The UNICEF project, "Strengthening protection of and psychosocial support to crisis affected children and youth" has started in January 2015 targeting 6000 children and 14000 adults in eight different cities inside Libya. The project will enable the provision and strengthening of community-based protection and psychosocial support of children affected by the armed conflict through the implementation of the Child Friendly Spaces (CFS), and community messaging on child protection and psychosocial support. Through child friendly spaces, the project will also provide identification and referral services for children victims of all types of violence and in particular sexual and gender-based violence. The implementation is taking place through four local NGOs with which UNICEF has signed partnership agreements.
- Another agreement was signed with Al Saffaa Centre for Mental health to strengthen the protection and psychosocial well being of girls and boys victims of all type of Gender based violence. The first mapping conducted by the centre on 612 children in one of the six Tripoli camps revealed 167 cases of children (girls and boys) who need further psychosocial support.

Education in Emergencies:

- 17 experts from different departments at the Libyan Ministry of Education attended in Zarzis, Tunisia the eight-day capacity building workshop, which constitutes the component of the Curriculum Framework Project. The launching of this component has been based on a Situational Analysis of the current basic education curriculum in Libya.
- An agreement has been signed with Boys and Girls Scouts to support children of 26 schools in 13 different cities by providing them with educational, psychosocial and recreational activities.
- With funding from European Commission under "Better Quality Education and Inclusion of All Children" Fund LCO has procured Recreational Kits from the Tunisian local market to be shipped to Libya for utilization by the UNICEF trained Girl and Boy Scouts during their psychosocial and recreational activities to be carried out in 13 different cities inside Libya. The scouts will provide children and adolescents with education on unexploded ordnance as well as conducting « Stop Violence » sessions to primary and secondary students in 26 schools.

Other Sectors:

- Due to the relatively strong service provision in health and WASH, these sectors have so far not required humanitarian support in the post 2014 period. However, UNICEF is reviewing preparedness in these sectors should the situation dramatically deteriorate over the coming months.

Supply and Logistics

UNICEF LCO has continued implementation of its capacity building component of the programme through establishing a hub for trainings and workshops in Zarzis, Tunisia close to the Libyan borders where different counterparts and stakeholders have been attending their trainings and workshops. Recreational kits needed for the humanitarian response have been procured from the Tunisian market and prepared for delivery across the borders to the affected cities in Libya.

Media and External Communication

UNICEF Libya has maintained continuous coverage for all activities and workshops organized in Zarzis, Tunisia and responded to media inquiries when needed. The current situation in Libya is difficult and psychosocial support for children affected by the conflict remains a key advocacy priority. Updated information regarding UNICEF activities are regularly disseminated through different platforms and soon will be available on UNICEF Libya social media accounts. Prompt response to media inquiries have been maintained and regular interviews with local and international media are taking place to advocate for the humanitarian needs of the Libyan children.

Security

The Libyan Supreme Court ruling on November 2014 sparked an acceleration of military activity in Libya. Security has continued to deteriorate across the country as fighting has ranged from east of Benghazi beyond Tripoli to the western border with Tunisia. Benghazi is now primarily under control of the Libyan military, and fresh-armed clashes between the military and Libya Dawn militias have broken out in western Libya. The Libyan military (under the banner of the Tobruk government) has initiated multiple airstrikes inside Tripoli and west along the coast highway, targeting Libya Dawn strong points. The Libyan military is focusing on destroying Libya Dawn weapons depots and cutting off resupply/reinforcement routes for Libya Dawn forces in the west. The strategy worked in Benghazi, but the western Libya campaign is spread over a much larger area and it remains to be seen if the Libyan military has enough personnel and assets to conduct the same strategy in the west. Currently Tripoli and the western side of Libya are at SLS 5. In addition, a number of individuals and groups have pledged allegiance to IS, and claimed responsibility for attacks around the country (including high-profile kidnappings and beheadings). As of the publishing of this SitRep, active fighting was taking place between brigades from Misurata and IS fighters in and around Sirte.

UNICEF international staff that were evacuated along with the rest of the UN in July of 2014, continue to operate from UNICEF Tunisia Country Office in Tunisia. Given the continuing deterioration of the security situation it is not clear when UNICEF international staff might be able to go back to Libya. The country team continues to seek opportunities to take extended missions to Libya, though the recent security environment has made this challenging.

Next SitRep: April 2015

Who to contact for further information

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