**Humanitarian Situation Overview**

As the fighting in Tripoli completes its eighth week neither faction has made significant territorial gains or a breakthrough, keeping the frontlines of the southern Tripoli static. The intensity of attacks varied while airstrikes, heavy shelling and rocket attacks continued throughout the reporting period.

Since the beginning of the conflict on 04 April, 40 civilian deaths, including children, in addition to 146 wounded civilians, have been reported.\(^1\) Approximately 82,300 people have been forced to flee their homes in Tripoli\(^2\).

As per the OCHA database, up to this date, some 789 families reside temporarily in 47 collective centres, of which 21\(^3\) are schools, were established by the Tripoli crisis committee to host Internally Displaced Persons fleeing violence and conflict in southern Tripoli.

On 23 May, an armoured ambulance of one of the first line responders came under shelling in southern Tripoli resulting in the death of the medical doctor onboard. A second ambulance that was sent to recover casualties was subsequently attacked, resulting in the death of another paramedic and injury of three health workers, including a medical doctor\(^4\).

Basic services continue to suffer during the conflict. The Man-Made River Authority confirmed that a water station was subjected to sabotage in the city of Zliten affecting water supply to the cities of Misrata, Zliten, Al-Khoms, and Garabulli, and neighbouring areas. On 25 May, the General Electricity Company of Libya announced that six power units in heavy fighting areas have gone off the general network. It has yet to affect Tripoli significantly.

The academic school year remains suspended in conflict affected areas, directly impacting education of some 122,088 children in nine municipalities near Tripoli,\(^5\) with more schools in other parts of Tripoli and the Western Libya closed or operating with restricted capacity. If the situation permits, schools in conflict affected areas would re-open on 09 June.

To address the education needs, the Ministry of Education launched non-formal education activities targeting some 700 students attending basic and secondary education. The Ministry stated challenges linked to the implementation of this programme including security situation and also the availability of a dedicated budget to pay the teachers overtime, stationery and office equipment.

Some three thousand migrants and refugees, including children, remain trapped in the detention centres close to the conflict lines and are in serious need of food, water, health care and protection services. According to reports, the situation in the detention centres accommodating migrants moved from the conflict affected centres are worsening, notably in Zintan and Gharian, resulting in appalling living conditions.

**UNICEF Emergency Response**

UNICEF, on behalf of the Humanitarian Country Team, leads both the Water, Sanitation and Hygiene (WASH) and Education sectors, as well as the child protection sub-sector, in addition to supporting emergency coordination for the Tripoli response.

---

1. Health Sector Working Group, Libya, Situation Update No.28
2. DTM Flash Update #17
3. Information from Ministry of Education
4. ibid
5. Information from Ministry of Education Social media
In line with the Core Commitments for Children in Humanitarian Action, UNICEF’s response is dedicated to providing immediate life-saving protection, WASH, health, education and nutrition support to girls, boys and their families affected by the conflict.

During the reporting period, together with IOM, UNFPA and WFP, UNICEF piloted the distribution of humanitarian aid to migrants living in the urban settings under the framework of the Rapid Response Mechanism. 80 Sudanese migrants were reached with a minimum life-saving integrated package of assistance that included food, hygiene kits and non-food items.

By 27 May, with the aim of helping conflict affected children to develop a sense of normalcy and cope with trauma, UNICEF and partners reached 9,511 conflict-affected children (4,851 girls and 4,660 boys) with psychosocial support, recreational activities and awareness sessions in collective shelters and in urban areas. 1,025 children (578 girls and 447 boys) received specialized psychosocial support and 775 caregivers (603 women and 172 men) attended child protection awareness sessions.

To ensure children’s education is not disrupted in three collective centres for internally displaced people, UNICEF assisted 206 students (101 girls and 105 boys) with non-formal education and school kits.

By 26 May, 8,630 children were among 20,825 individuals (4,165 households) who were provided by hygiene kits in collective centres and urban areas in Tripoli and Western Libya by UNICEF and partners. To ensure that WASH facilities in collective centres meet the minimum international standards, UNICEF and partners continue to assess and maintain the water and sanitation facilities in collective centres. Additionally, UNICEF prepositioned additional water treatment chemicals and water bladders with the General Authority of Water Resources.

During the reporting period, UNICEF provided micronutrients for 60 children while two Interagency Emergency health Kits were delivered to the Primary Health Centres in Abu Saleem and Janzour, sufficient for 20,000 individuals for a three-month period. Since the beginning of the conflict in Tripoli, UNICEF has provided support to meet health and Nutrition needs of 222,576 people through Primary Health Care facilities, collective and detention centres. Meanwhile, UNICEF is coordinating with the National Centre for Disease Control and other partners is planning for a rapid nutrition assessment in the collective centres.

**Emergency Response Delivery**

UNICEF is co-leading the Rapid Response Mechanism (RRM) in collaboration with the International Organization for Migration (IOM), World Food Programme (WFP) and the United Nations Population Fund (UNFPA) to immediately deliver a minimum package of essential commodities, including food, hygiene and other essential items at the onset of a crisis to displaced households.

Up to 23 May, 8,726 children were assisted among 21,815 people (4,363 households) reached through the Rapid Response Mechanism in urban areas in and around Tripoli.

UNICEF is responding to the emergency in partnership with the Ministry of Health, the National Centre for Disease Control, the Ministry of Education, the Water Authority, seven national and two international organisations. UNICEF builds on its well-established partnerships with the municipal councils and the Tripoli crisis committee to coordinate the response and ensure that there are no gaps and/or overlaps with other responders.

UNICEF has deployed a Third-Party Monitoring service provider to conduct regular programme and distribution monitoring visits where security permits and by 24 May has conducted 26 monitoring visits.

**Funding**

In order to respond to the immediate needs to the affected families in Tripoli and western Libya, UNICEF and its partners immediately require US$ 5.50 million with a funding gap of US$ 4.38 million.

---

**For more information contact:**

Abdel Rahman Ghandour
Special Representative, UNICEF Libya
arghandour@unicef.org
+218 912508641 l +216 99981718

Mostafa Omar
Communications Specialist, UNICEF Libya
mosomar@unicef.org
+218 910012129 l + 216 99070815

**Voices from Libya**

Retaj Jumma, 18, first-year pharmacy student and part-time volunteer with UNICEF partner Noor Al-Hayat – NGO that is spearheading child protection activities for children.

Retaj joined Noor Al-Hayat team to support the provision of psychosocial and recreational activities to conflict affected children in schools and community settings. This was an experience which helped her to realize the significance of such programmes for children.

Retaj shared with us her experience in working in schools, particularly ‘Ahmad Bin Shtwan’ school where a number of Sudanese families temporarily reside, as their houses were located on the front line between the two belligerent parties.

I have noticed the impact of war and displacement on the children as I was playing and engaging with them in constructive and structured activities.

It is clear that the ongoing fights in Tripoli resulted in the deterioration of the psychological health and well-being of children.

At the same time my visits together with the rest of the team gave families a sense of hope and patience. “Come and visit us again” is one of the most touching words that I keep hearing at the end of each sessions.

During our visits, we group children in circles and start drawing, painting on faces, playing with clay. I can see the happiness on their faces. We use the materials included in the recreational kits issued by UNICEF to the collective centres and they are just great!

In my opinion, recreational activities held in the child friendly spaces are powerful tools which help children cope with the situation, reduce aggression and bring them a sense of normalcy.

Since I was 15, I used to go with a family member to visit kindergartens, with the aim of promoting and raising awareness on children’s need. I have always wanted to study foreign languages to be able to join humanitarian organizations in the future and help children in need.

What motivates me the most is to continue volunteering to help children forget the situation they are currently living in and to be just themselves-children.

As the conflict in Tripoli stretches to its second month, UNICEF with partners continue to provide child protection services to displaced children and families in collective centres and community settings.