

# LIBYA - COMPLEX EMERGENCY

FACT SHEET #2, FISCAL YEAR (FY) 2019

SEPTEMBER 30, 2019

## NUMBERS AT A GLANCE

**6.6 million**

Estimated Population of Libya  
UN – November 2018

**823,000**

Estimated Number of People in  
Need of Humanitarian Assistance  
UN – November 2018

**301,407**

IDPs in Libya  
IOM – August 2019

**447,025**

Registered IDP Returns  
IOM – August 2019

**655,144**

Migrants in Libya  
IOM – August 2019

**48,199**

Registered Refugees and Asylum-  
Seekers in Libya  
UNHCR – September 2019

## HIGHLIGHTS

- UN reports nearly 50 attacks on health care facilities and personnel since April
- Outbreak of violence in Murzuq displaces nearly 26,500 individuals in August
- Relief actors report increased humanitarian access constraints following ongoing Tripoli clashes

## HUMANITARIAN FUNDING FOR THE LIBYA RESPONSE IN FY 2019

USAID/OFDA <sup>1</sup>	\$3,157,290
State/PRM <sup>2</sup>	\$28,100,000
<b>\$31,257,290</b>	

## KEY DEVELOPMENTS

- The number of internally displaced persons (IDPs) in Libya increased from approximately 268,600 people in June to more than 301,400 people in August, primarily due to ongoing conflict in and near Libya's capital of Tripoli, as well as heavy rains and resultant flooding between late May and early June in Ghat District. The violence in Tripoli has led to the death of at least 111 civilians and displaced more than 128,000 people since fighting began in early April.
- An eruption of violence in and near Murzuq city, located approximately 480 miles south of Tripoli, resulted in at least 90 civilian deaths and displaced an additional 26,500 individuals in Libya in mid-to-late August, according to the International Organization for Migration (IOM).
- In FY 2019, the U.S. Government (USG) provided nearly \$31.3 million to address the humanitarian needs of conflict-affected populations throughout Libya. The funding, provided through USAID/OFDA and State/PRM, supports health; protection; shelter; water, sanitation, and hygiene (WASH); and other programs for vulnerable populations.

<sup>1</sup> USAID's Office of U.S. Foreign Disaster Assistance (USAID/OFDA)

<sup>2</sup> U.S. Department of State's Bureau of Population, Refugees, and Migration (State/PRM)

## CURRENT EVENTS

- Ongoing clashes in the southern areas of Tripoli since early April had resulted in at least 111 civilian fatalities, nearly 300 civilians injured, and the displacement of more than 128,000 people as of mid-August, relief actors report. The UN reports that the conflict has increased humanitarian needs while hindering access to food, health care, and other basic services. As of August 9, the Office of the UN High Commissioner for Refugees (UNHCR) had provided emergency relief supplies to an estimated 13,500 IDPs affected by the violence in Tripoli and continued to provide health care support in the area.
  - The outbreak of violence, including airstrikes, in Murzuq city since August 4 had killed at least 90 civilians and displaced nearly 26,500 individuals—more than 90 percent of the city’s population—as of September 21, according to relief actors. The violence has also damaged homes and infrastructure, led to the closure of markets, and adversely impacted public services in the area. IOM reports that a majority of the IDPs have fled to other areas in southern Libya, including more than 9,300 individuals to Wadi Etba and nearly 4,500 individuals to Sabha city. Authorities in Wadi Etba declared a state of emergency due to humanitarian needs of IDPs fleeing the violence; relief organizations are providing emergency food commodities, health care, shelter supplies, and access to clean drinking water, according to IOM.
  - Humanitarian agencies continue to respond to emergency food, health, shelter, and WASH needs of populations affected by heavy rain and flooding in Ghat town from late May to early June that displaced nearly 5,100 people. As of August 4, more than 1,850 IDPs were sheltering in collective shelters in Ghat and Ubari districts; other IDPs were sheltering with host families near Ghat.
  - UN agencies and non-governmental organizations (NGOs) have called for the closure of detention facilities across Libya and the adoption of principled migration policies to protect nearly 3,000 refugees and migrants held in detention facilities near conflict-affected areas. IOM also reports that continued airstrikes and shelling in areas inhabited by civilians continues to impact people in the detention centers. For example, airstrikes on July 2 hit Tripoli’s Tajoura Detention Center, resulting in more than 50 fatalities and 130 injured, as well as damage to the detention facility, according to IOM.
  - On September 12, the UN Security Council unanimously adopted a resolution to extend the mandate of the UN Support Mission in Libya (UNSMIL) until September 15, 2020. The resolution supports ongoing ceasefire efforts, the political process, and the delivery of humanitarian assistance, among other measures.
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## HUMANITARIAN ACCESS

- Relief actors have reported increased humanitarian access constraints since clashes in and near Tripoli began in April, according to the UN. Insecurity is hindering relief agencies’ ability to deliver assistance in the area. In addition, humanitarian organizations report difficulty obtaining or renewing NGO registrations and international staff visas due to complicated and opaque bureaucratic procedures.
  - Insecurity also continues to constrain humanitarian access in southern Libya, where chronic under-development and violence is expected to create humanitarian needs. International relief actors are mostly operating through local partners to provide assistance.
  - UNSMIL and relief actors have expressed alarm over an increase in shelling and air strikes against airports in western Libya. On September 1, the UN Humanitarian Air Service suspended flights to Tripoli’s Mitiga Airport—the only operational airport in the city for civilians and the delivery of humanitarian assistance—after authorities closed it following an airstrike that injured four civilians and damaged the airport’s infrastructure; the incident was the seventh airstrike on Mitiga Airport since July. Additionally, an airstrike struck Zuwara airport, a civilian facility located in northwest Libya’s An Nuqat Al Khams District, on August 15, causing damage to the airport’s infrastructure.
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## PROTECTION

- The UN Children’s Fund (UNICEF) estimates that up to 500,000 children in Libya face increased protection risks as a result of the escalation of violence in Tripoli since April, including psychosocial stress and exposure to unexploded ordnance. As a result, the UN agency has scaled up emergency assistance through the Rapid Response Mechanism (RRM), a joint initiative between IOM, UNICEF, the UN Population Funding (UNFPA), and the UN World Food Program (WFP) to ensure conflict-affected children and their families have access to health, protection, and WASH support. The RRM is designed to respond to emergency needs immediately following displacement. UNICEF and other UN agencies have reached more than 25,000 conflict-affected individuals with life-saving assistance near Tripoli since April, as well as nearly 50,600 children with psychosocial support (PSS) and 21,100 children with WASH assistance throughout the country from January to June.
  - In FY 2019, USAID/OFDA provided nearly \$700,000 in funding to partners to conduct protection programming in Libya, including support to conflict-affected adolescents, prevention of and response to gender-based violence, and referral of PSS cases for specialized care.
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## HEALTH

- Since April, the UN has reported nearly 50 attacks on health facilities and health workers that have killed at least 11 health care workers and adversely impacted operations at nearly 20 hospitals. Additionally, hostilities in Tripoli have impeded access to health care services for the district’s residents. UN Special Representative of the Secretary-General to Libya Ghassan Salamé condemned the continued airstrikes on health facilities and health workers in a statement following airstrikes that hit a field hospital in Tripoli on August 13—immediately following the end of the temporary ceasefire in Tripoli.
  - In early September, the UN World Health Organization (WHO) distributed USAID/OFDA-funded emergency medical supplies and trauma kits to more than 40 health facilities throughout Libya. The supplies will help provide medicine and basic medical treatment to as many as 220,000 people, while the trauma kits will enhance the ability of field facilities in southern Libya to respond to mass casualty incidents. Overall, USAID/OFDA provided more than \$1 million to partners in FY 2019 to support the provision of emergency health care services throughout the country, including rural or hard-to-reach communities.
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## FOOD SECURITY

- Conflict remains the primary driver of food insecurity in Libya, due to closures of roads and ports restricting delivery of commercial food imports, declining domestic food production, displacement, and disrupted markets. However, the Government of National Accord’s decision to reduce foreign-currency transaction fees in late July helped reduce the cost of imported food items countrywide and improved the ability of people living in areas with functioning markets to access food, particularly in western Libya, according to the REACH Initiative.
  - In response to heightened conflict, WFP is providing food rations to 2,300 people displaced by fighting near Murzuq and Tripoli through the RRM. Since April, WFP has distributed food to approximately 31,000 people through the RRM.
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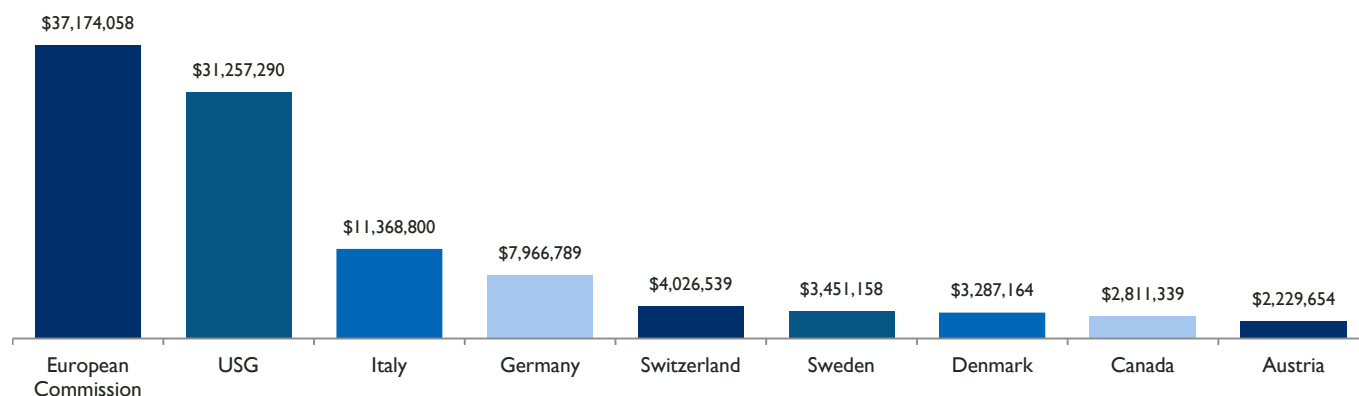
## OTHER HUMANITARIAN ASSISTANCE

- Donors had contributed more than \$97 million in 2019 to support the Libya response as of September 30, according to the UN Office for the Coordination of Humanitarian Affairs (OCHA). Within the \$202 million HRP, donors had provided \$74 million, or nearly 37 percent, as of September 30.
- On June 19, the UN Development Program allocated \$3.2 million to recovery and stabilization efforts in flood-affected areas of Ghat. The funding, which includes \$1.2 million from the European Union and \$2 million from the multi-

donor Stabilization Facility for Libya, will help local authorities provide flood-affected individuals access to food, health, and WASH services.

## 2019 HUMANITARIAN FUNDING\*

PER DONOR



\*Funding figures are as of September 30, 2019. All international figures are according to OCHA's Financial Tracking Service and based on international commitments during the calendar year, while USG figures are according to the USG and reflect publicly announced USG funding for FY 2019, which spans October 1, 2018, to September 30, 2019.

## CONTEXT

- Armed conflict, civil unrest, and political instability have plagued Libya since 2011. Fluctuations in localized conflict—ongoing since 2014—and economic volatility, combined with Libya's status as a major transit country for refugees and migrants, have contributed to turmoil in the country. Consequently, the UN estimates as many as 823,000 people in Libya will require humanitarian assistance in 2019.
- On November 14, 2018, U.S. Chargé d'Affaires Natalie A. Baker reissued a disaster declaration for Libya due to the effects of the ongoing complex emergency and lack of local capacity to effectively address the humanitarian needs of conflict-affected populations.

### USG HUMANITARIAN FUNDING FOR THE LIBYA RESPONSE IN FY 2019<sup>3</sup>

IMPLEMENTING PARTNER	ACTIVITY	LOCATION	AMOUNT
<b>USAID/OFDA</b>			
Implementing Partners (IPs)	Humanitarian Coordination and Information Management (HCIM)	Countrywide	\$1,094,103
IPs	Health, HCIM, Protection	Benghazi, Misrata	\$1,555,897
WHO	Health	Benghazi, Al Kufrah, Al Marqab, Misrata, Tripoli, Al Wahat	\$500,000
	Program Support		\$7,290
<b>TOTAL USAID/OFDA FUNDING</b>			<b>\$3,157,290</b>
<b>STATE/PRM</b>			
IP	Capacity Building, Food Security, Health, Logistics Support and Relief Commodities, Multipurpose Cash Assistance, WASH	Countrywide	\$7,900,000
UNHCR	Health, Logistics Support and Relief Commodities, Multipurpose Cash Assistance, Protection, Shelter and Settlements	Countrywide	\$20,200,000

<sup>3</sup> Year of funding indicates the date of commitment or obligation, not appropriation, of funds. Funding figures reflect publicly announced funding as of September 30, 2019.

<b>TOTAL STATE/PRM FUNDING</b>	<b>\$28,100,000</b>
<b>TOTAL USG HUMANITARIAN FUNDING FOR THE COUNTRY RESPONSE IN FY 2019</b>	<b>\$31,257,290</b>

## **PUBLIC DONATION INFORMATION**

The most effective way people can assist relief efforts is by making cash contributions to humanitarian organizations that are conducting relief operations. A list of humanitarian organizations that are accepting cash donations for disaster responses around the world can be found at [www.interaction.org](http://www.interaction.org).

USAID encourages cash donations because they allow aid professionals to procure the exact items needed (often in the affected region); reduce the burden on scarce resources (such as transportation routes, staff time, and warehouse space); can be transferred very quickly and without transportation costs; support the economy of the disaster-stricken region; and ensure culturally, dietarily, and environmentally appropriate assistance.

More information can be found at:

- USAID Center for International Disaster Information: [www.cidi.org](http://www.cidi.org).
- Information on relief activities of the humanitarian community can be found at [www.reliefweb.int](http://www.reliefweb.int).