

LIBYA

FACTS & FIGURES - 2018

JANUARY – JUNE 2018



Fares Elabed/ Benghazi

Seven years of armed conflict in Libya has left its people with coping mechanisms that are rapidly eroding. Daily life has become difficult and hundreds of thousands of people either remain displaced or are trying to return home. The unrest, which began in 2011, has left many families completely dependent on humanitarian assistance provided by the International Committee of the Red Cross (ICRC) and the Libyan Red Crescent (LRC).

Due to the protracted conflict, the host communities are overstretched as their resources are dwindling. This means they are no longer able to offer adequate support to the most vulnerable among them. Basic services and essential commodities are barely accessible.

Those returning home have had to deal with the remnants of large-scale destruction that also hit houses, schools and other key infrastructure facilities in some parts of Libya. The returnees face an additional risk of unexploded ordnance; these could not only cause grave injuries or be lethal, but may even deter people from resuming normal life.

Health care is a particular challenge for the entire Libyan population. A number of facilities have been subjected to attacks and sabotage, besides lack of maintenance and rehabilitation, affecting their capacity to deliver services. The functional health structures are finding it more and more difficult to cope due to chronic shortage of medical supplies.

Migrants, including refugees and asylum seekers, continue to pass through Libya. During their journey, they have been susceptible to arrest, have lost contact with families and faced various kinds of abuse. Many have also perished at sea.

The ICRC, in partnership with the LRC, has striven to help the most vulnerable people. It currently operates from four offices in Libya – Tripoli in the west, Misrata in the centre, Benghazi in the east and Sabha in the south – and has over 220 staff based mostly inside Libya and some in Tunis.



FOOD AND ESSENTIAL HOUSEHOLD ITEMS

- The ICRC, often in partnership with the LRC, responded to several humanitarian emergencies arising in various parts of the country in the first six months of 2018.
 - Food was distributed among more than **181,000** people, including the displaced, returnees and other vulnerable sections.
 - Cash assistance was given to **14,400** people, enabling them to buy their daily needs.
 - Essential household and hygiene items were given to **162,000** people, including the displaced, returnees and other vulnerable people.
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ACCESS TO SAFE WATER AND BETTER SANITATION

- Over **50,000** people in the eastern and southern parts of the country benefited from better access to drinking water, sewage disposal and clean-up measures after the floods.
 - In an emergency intervention, the ICRC and the LRC distributed bottled water and restored community latrines, benefiting **600** displaced persons from Derna.
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MEDICAL SUPPLIES

- The ICRC donated essential medical supplies to **28** hospitals and other facilities across Libya. At least **10** hospitals and **12** primary-health-care centres in Tripoli, Misrata, Benghazi and Sabha received supplies on a regular basis.
 - Structures supported by the ICRC treated hundreds of wounded patients, provided over **70,000** consultations and vaccinated more than **3,000** children against polio and measles.
 - Insulin and other medicines were provided to over **7,000** patients in Misrata and Benghazi diabetes centres.
 - Basic first-aid training sessions carried out for more than **380** people from various armed groups, among others.
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PHYSICAL REHABILITATION

- Over **450** people with physical disabilities were assisted with prostheses and physiotherapy treatment.
 - The ICRC presently supports **3** centres in Tripoli, Misrata and Benghazi with material and training.
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RECONNECTING FAMILIES, FINDING THE MISSING

- Over **530** families could reconnect via phone or video calls, short oral messages and Red Cross messages delivered by the ICRC or the LRC between people detained in Libya and their loved ones, as well as between families in Libya and their relatives detained abroad, including at Guantanamo Bay Naval Station in Cuba.
 - In Misrata, the ICRC visited detainees, including migrants, at **2** places of detention and unaccompanied minors at a National Society shelter, and helped them contact their relatives or consular representatives.
 - **75** people filed tracing requests for their missing relatives; **12** cases were resolved.
 - The ICRC issued travel documents to nearly **570** people to facilitate their journey out of Libya.
 - Clothes, hygiene items and blankets were provided to over **320** detainees.
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DIGNIFIED MANAGEMENT OF HUMAN REMAINS

- In terms of forensic support, material to handle human remains properly and in a dignified manner were donated to the LRC and several hospitals, among others.
 - Training sessions were organized for various entities involved in the recovery and/or management of human remains. Those trained included LRC volunteers, hospital staff and professionals in the field of forensics.
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We help people around the world affected by armed conflict and other violence, doing everything we can to protect their lives and dignity and to relieve their suffering, often with our Red Cross and Red Crescent partners. We also seek to prevent hardship by promoting and strengthening humanitarian law and championing universal humanitarian principles.

People know they can count on us to carry out a range of life-saving activities in conflict zones and to work closely with the communities there to understand and meet their needs. Our experience and expertise enable us to respond quickly and effectively, without taking sides.

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