

LIBYA

FACTS AND FIGURES

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Fatès Elabeid/ICRC

The ICRC opened Benghazi Physical Rehabilitation Center Dormitory on December 14th, 2022.

The humanitarian situation in Libya saw progressive improvement, with people requiring humanitarian aid decreasing, number of IDPs decreasing and an increase in returnees to their places of origin. Nonetheless, while the 2020 ceasefire agreement between former belligerents continued to hold, it was pockmarked by a number of sporadic clashes mainly in Tripoli, the most severe one being in August of 2022. Still, consequences of years of armed conflict continued to linger; access to basic services such as healthcare, water and electricity remain scarce, presence of unexploded ordnances in many urban areas pose risks to life and limb, and the unknown fate of the many missing still bears heavily on families.

The International committee of the Red Cross (ICRC), in partnership with the Libya Red Crescent Society (LRCS), continued to implement joint activities to deliver needed assistance and protection responses to conflict affected communities.



PRESERVING HUMAN DIGNITY AND REUNITING FAMILIES

In its neutral intermediary capacity, the ICRC continued its engagement with West and East representatives within the framework of the “**International Humanitarian Law (IHL) and Humanitarian Working Group**” it chairs, and continued conversations on protection issues including the **promotion**

and application of IHL. It supported military authorities in Libya to establish **a mechanism to search for persons missing in relation to conflicts**, with the humanitarian aim of informing their families of their fate and whereabouts. It also supported such authorities in the creation of **a mechanism for the protection, management and identification of human remains**, providing technical advice and guidance. Through such mechanisms, the ICRC facilitates the exchange of lists of missing persons and of feedback on the fate and whereabouts of some of them, and the collection of data on unidentified/unclaimed human remains. Throughout the year, the ICRC facilitated **3** meetings and since October, a one-day sub-working group has been dedicated to discuss forensic issues with the respective specialists. Since the creation of this forum, approximately **30** families received news about their beloved one who had been without news for years.

The ICRC also kept engaging in a **bilateral dialogue** with several Libyan authorities and institutions to raise attention and provide recommendations on various humanitarian issues, such as the **needs of the families of missing persons** and the **protection of civilians**, including **migrants, Internally Displaced Persons**, the wounded and sick and the medical mission, including during armed conflicts and law enforcement operations. Within this framework and in connection with the diffusion of IHL among arms bearers, the ICRC engaged with the armed forces in a dialogue on **conduct of hostilities**.

- Under its **Protection of Family Links (PFL)** program, the ICRC:
 - Restored and maintained contact between family members separated by conflict, violence and migration, including detainees, unaccompanied minors and vulnerable adults, through **88** phone calls, **9** video calls and the exchange of **204** Red Cross Messages and Salamat (oral greetings). A total of **2,375** persons reported as missing by their families continue to be sought by the ICRC in Libya and **108** are sought abroad on behalf of their families in Libya.
 - Continued coordinating with and strengthening the capacity of staff and volunteers of the LRCS to offer Protection of Family Links services.

- Under its **forensic program**, aimed at supporting the medico-legal system and institutions participating in the management of the dead, the ICRC:
 - Provided **74** management of the dead kits, PPE and **510** body bags to multiple CJER offices and branches, and medical facilities across Libya and the LRCS for the purpose of emergency response and contingency stock
 - Completed supporting repairs in **two** mortuaries
 - Donated **three** digital cameras and **one** laptop to forensic experts from the CJER, and the IHL Committee
 - Donated **one** screen and digital projector to one CJER branch
 - Donated **nine** sets of autopsy tools and nine autopsy saws to four CJER offices
 - Sponsored **five** persons from the National Authority for DNA Fingerprinting Research and Analysis, and the General Authority for Search and Identification of Missing Persons- to attend a 5-day online Forensic Laboratory Management course.

- Under its activities in **places of detention**:
 - Assessed material conditions and treatment and provided technical recommendations to the authorities in charge to bring about improvements where needed, to the benefit of **nearly 1,500** detainees, some of whom were followed up individually based on their needs, including through support in communicating with their families in Libya and abroad.
 - Donated assistance to persons deprived of their freedom with specific vulnerabilities (such as women and accompanying children), consisting of hygiene parcels, shoes, books and leisure items.

- To improve the healthcare of detainees, the ICRC organized a first-world conference on health in detention from 27 to 29 June 2022 in Geneva (Switzerland). The purpose of this **1st World Conference on Health in Detention** was to raise awareness among and improve the knowledge and skills of key stakeholders in health in detention settings to improve the health outcomes of people deprived of their liberty. At the event, the ICRC supported and accompanied the participation of **three** Libyan officials representing the ministries of justice, defense and health.

- Furthermore, the ICRC supported and accompanied the participation of **two** medical staff from the Ministry of Justice in a course on Health in Detention in Basel (Switzerland).
- Following meetings and agreements with relevant official authorities to carry out rehabilitation interventions in **two** military places of detention in the East, the ICRC designed, launched and completed the **rehabilitation project in Gernada place of detention**.
- The ICRC organized a Healthcare in Detention **seminar** in November, focusing on specific relevant topics to sensitize the authorities on the added value of maintaining and providing good healthcare to detainees and reiterated its support for healthcare in detention. The ministries represented in this seminar were the Ministry of Justice, the Ministry of Defense, the Ministry of Interior, the Ministry of Health, the Ministry of Social Affairs and the Ministry of Foreign Affairs.



PROVISION OF FOOD, ESSENTIAL HOUSEHOLD ITEMS, AND CASH SUPPORT

- A total of **6,905** families (displaced persons, vulnerable residents, and returnees) were supported with food rations allowing them to supplement their food consumption (the rations cover the needs of families of six members, for one month).
- **31,486** vulnerable families were supplied with essential household kits to improve their living conditions.
- **2,933** IDP families were targeted with cash assistance to contribute to cover rental costs for a period of four months.



LIVELIHOODS' SUPPORT

- A total of **266** vulnerable families received productive grants to launch their own start-up projects enabling them to generate income to support their families.
- **240** applicants were provided with financial support to cover the costs of vocational trainings to learn a new skill and support them seeking employment.
- **385** applicants received business skills training to enable them to better run their own business.





SUPPORT TO HEALTHCARE SERVICES

- ICRC supported **74** health facilities (primary healthcare centers (PHCCs), diabetes centers, hospitals, mobile clinics). These facilities carried out over **1,182,506** consultations, out of which **200,211** consultations for children under **5** years old.
- Provided drugs and consumables to the **74** health facilities, within which **26** PHCCs received support on a monthly basis.
- Provided insulin, anti-diabetic and non-communicable diseases medicines and laboratory items to **three diabetes centers** in Misrata, Sabha and Al-Bayda, which served around **33,367** registered diabetic patients.
- Supported **three** LRCS mobile health clinics in Sirte, Derna and Kufra regions with medicines, consumables and personal protective equipment serving underserved population.
- **6,682** persons benefitted from awareness sessions on health promotion and chronic diseases prevention, and **2,492** non-communicable diseases (NCD) patients received support counseling sessions on lifestyle and nutrition under the Community Health Project done in coordination with **LRCS**. It targeted **four** communities in Tripoli, Misrata, Sabha, and Al-Bayda.
- Provided emergency care sets of medicines and consumables to **15** hospitals including Ben Baya Hospital after the fuel tank explosion in the South and hospitals in Tripoli after the August clashes occurred.
- Conducted NCD prevention and control Training of Trainers (ToT) to **102 LRCS** volunteers, in addition to First Aid (basic and advanced) trainings and Basic Emergency Care to **573** participants including ambulance services in Misrata and arms bearers.
- ICRC continued close coordination with central Ministry of Health (MoH) authorities on various health projects: digitization of Integrated Management of Childhood illnesses (ALMANACH), emergency care, community health, and physical rehabilitation.
- Donated **11,562** blood bags to MoH blood banks, in different regions, responding to the urgent call of acute shortage in the country.



SUPPORT TO PEOPLE WITH DISABILITIES

- Supported **three** physical rehabilitation centers (PRCs) in **Janzour (Tripoli), Misrata and Benghazi** where **3,300** persons with disabilities received various services in **2022**. Around **35 persons with disabilities from the South (Sabha)** were also referred to centers in Tripoli and Misrata for prosthetic services in 2022.
- The ICRC's support consisted of imported material to manufacture artificial limbs, including high quality German Otto Bock technology.
- Ad hoc donation of physiotherapy material to the Sabha Physiotherapy Center and Murzuq Physiotherapy Center.
- Provided Prosthetic and orthotic trainings at Janzour and Benghazi Physical rehabilitation Centers.

- Provided Physiotherapy training at Janzour, Benghazi, Misrata Physical rehabilitation Centers and in South, at Sabha Diabetic Centers to the physiotherapists across Sabha Region.
- Career Development workshops for the persons/players with disabilities were conducted in Tripoli and Benghazi.
- With ICRC sponsorship, **two students are continuing a Bachelor program in Prosthetics & Orthotics in India** (2021-2026). **Three students completed prosthetic training in Germany.** **Three new students** were sponsored to India for an **18-month professional course on Prosthetics and Orthotics** in November.
- With ICRC sponsorship, Libyan Paralympic wheelchair basketball team participated in ICRC International wheelchair Basketball tournament in India in November and secured third position.
- The ICRC constructed and handed over a **15-room dormitory annexed to the Benghazi Physical Rehabilitation Centre.** The new dormitory will play a pivotal role in allowing persons with disabilities to have free-of-charge accommodation while receiving the required services at the physical rehabilitation center.



ACCESS TO WATER, SANITATION AND HEALTH INFRASTRUCTURE

- An estimated **1,940,732** people in different parts of Libya benefitted from improved access and availability of clean water and better sanitation, through projects delivered by ICRC throughout **2022** that focused on the supply of essential materials such as pumps, pipes, generators and technical advice to various water and sewerage management entities in over **30** towns and cities. In addition, the ICRC's support also extends to Man Made River Authority (MMRA) that is a main institution for Man Made River Project (MMRP) which covers the water needs of about **65%** of the Libyan population.
- Completed a major support project for the Man-Made River – Al Shwarif Facility, through the repair of the flow control valve which serves over **200,000** people.
- Provided a WASH-in-emergencies training to Libyan Red Crescent volunteers and staff, covering **15 branches** and around **20** participants.
- Continued to work with central and local authorities to develop a rehabilitation master plan for the sewerage system of the city of Benghazi, which has fallen into disrepair and requires major infrastructure rehabilitation for a well-functioning sewerage system.
- Completed the structural construction of the dormitory consisting of **15 bedrooms, in Benghazi Physical Rehabilitation Centre** and working on the installation of essential services.





COOPERATION WITH THE LIBYAN RED CRESCENT SOCIETY (LRCS)

- Carried out joint activities with LRCS to respond to humanitarian needs of people with relief provision, restoring family links, management of the dead, weapon contamination, and through support to LRCS's mobile health clinics. Additionally, the ICRC supports the LRCS in building its operational and organizational capacities.
- The ICRC continued its institutional financial support for some of the LRCS HQ departments. The ICRC trained **200** LRCS staff/volunteers in logistics, finance, community health, information technology, and relief.



SUPPORTING COMMUNITIES AND RESPONDERS AFFECTED BY WEAPON CONTAMINATION

- Provided first aid trainings to **49** demining personnel in Military Engineering Units, Criminal Investigative Department and Tawasul demining organization.
- Provided workshop to **34** members of clearance teams of Military Engineering Unit and Criminal Investigative Department in Benghazi on recognition and safety from improvised explosive device.
- Provided **demining/ clearance equipment** donation to **Military Engineering Units in Tripoli and Benghazi** to support with clearance operations for the protection of civilians.
- Provided risk awareness and safer behaviour training to **30** LRCS volunteers and staff from the branches of Tripoli, Benghazi, Derna and Sirte.
- Supported LRCS conduct surveys with **306** civilians affected by (living or working near) weapon contaminated areas in Tripoli, Benghazi and Derna on their knowledge, attitudes and practices with regards to their safety.





RAISING AWARENESS ON INTERNATIONAL HUMANITARIAN LAW (IHL)

- Continued to engage with various interest groups such as authorities, armed forces, academia, community leaders, media etc. to promote knowledge about International Humanitarian Law (IHL).
- As part of the partnership agreement with LRCS, the ICRC held a **three-days training** mid-December for **26** LRCS volunteers and staff to develop their capacities and knowledge in IHL. This training falls under the partnership agreement held between LRCS and ICRC in relation to IHL national promotion. The training focused on the legal sources of IHL, classification of armed conflicts, and interplay between IHL and International Human Rights Law (IHRL). It was an opportunity to discuss the challenges related to the respect of IHL at the national level.
- During the First Aid trainings in Benghazi, **two sessions** on the main principles of IHL were provided to LNA senior officers. (November and December)
- Concerning dialogue with academic circles, **two** hybrid face-to-face/virtual event was organized with universities of Wadi el Shati, and Ubari in Sabha, southern part of Libya aiming to promote ICRC's mandate and IHL principles to law professors and students.
- **Two Libyan officers** were sponsored to attend the Senior Workshop on International Rules Governing Military Operations in Denpasar, Indonesia.
- IHL seminars were conducted for senior military officers in Benghazi (**27** participants), Misrata (**18** participants), and in Tunis (**15** participants).
- Two days IHL training was conducted to **38** participants in collaboration with National Commission on IHL and Higher Judicial Institute (August 2022)
- Libyan academic team of **5 persons** participated to the IHL Regional Moot Court Competition in Sultanat Oman. (November 2022)
- **Two** senior interlocutors participated to the IHL Arabic Regional Course in Egypt.





HIGHLIGHTING HUMANITARIAN ISSUES AND PROVIDING COMMUNICATION CAPACITY BUILDING

- Conducted a training for Tripoli-based journalists on humanitarian reporting, IHL, and mobile journalism
- Provided communication training on photography, videography and storytelling to 8 LRCS volunteers and staff
- Provided material equipment to the LRCS.
- Created an Audio-Visual product on effects of climate change in Libya
- Communicated about the humanitarian situation, stories of beneficiaries highlighting their needs and resilience, and ICRC's ongoing operations through social media and other means.



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.

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