

LIBYA



Ongoing conflict in Libya has killed over 1,000, displaced 128,000, and continues to imperil 47,900 refugees and asylum seekers in Libya—many of whom are intercepted by the Libyan Coast Guard and returned to unsafe detention centers.

Country Context

Since conflict between the Libyan Government of National Accord and military general Khalifa Haftar's forces reignited when Haftar's troops attacked Tripoli in April 2019, over 1,000 have been killed and over 128,000 displaced. Tripoli and the surrounding area suffer electrical outages, dwindling supplies of drinkable water, and fuel and cash shortages. Hospitals are running out of plasma, medicine, and emergency supplies; health workers are regularly targeted. Refugees and migrants remain extremely vulnerable; detention centers are frequently attacked (notably Tajoura in July 2019 and Qasr bin Ghashir in April 2019).

How is the U.S. Involved?

The U.S. is supporting efforts to negotiate a diplomatic solution but has also twice blocked efforts in the U.N. Security Council to pass a resolution calling for a ceasefire.

Key Figures



880,000

in need of humanitarian assistance



47,879

registered refugees and asylum seekers



301,407

internally displaced people



128,000

displacements since April 2019



\$110 million

requested for humanitarian response

On-the-Ground Perspective

- Most international humanitarian organizations serving Libyan populations have been operating from Tunisia since 2014.
- Humanitarian aid and response organizations are limited in both their access and ability to assist those most vulnerable to the conflict, including internally displaced people, refugees, and migrants. Ongoing shelling, as well as newly planted IEDs on key roads, are preventing the medical and frontline aid workers from accessing vulnerable and impacted families.
- The Libyan Coast Guard continues to intercept refugees and migrants in the Mediterranean, returning them to perilous conditions in detention centers amid the ongoing conflict. Severe constraints on humanitarian organizations rescuing migrants at sea are increasing. In August, the Italian Parliament approved a law that would impose fines of up to €1 million on organizations carrying out search and rescue operations.

Responses and Actions

- Following sustained pressure from the United Nations and international humanitarian organizations, the Government of National Accord announced that they would be closing three detention centers in Misrata, Tajoura, and Khoms.
- In 2019, UNHCR and partners supported refugees with over 7,500 medical consultations and distributed cash to over 720 families.

References available at [interaction.org/2020globalsituationreport](https://www.interaction.org/2020globalsituationreport).

