

## Protection sector update on the protection situation in Tripoli 24 September 2018

### Overview:

After 20 days of the ceasefire agreement between the armed groups in Tripoli, deadly fighting erupted between several armed groups in the Tripoli's southern districts on 20 September (Including Khallat Al Furjan, Ain Zara, Abu Slim, Salah Eddin and Ben Aoun). Armed groups used medium and heavy weaponry, which resulted in the displacement of thousands of civilians. Many civilians were trapped without a corridor for safe passage to flee the areas affected by the conflict.

Over the course of the last 4 days, more than 1,500 families were displaced to several locations in Tripoli and across Libya. Additionally, according to the Ministry of Health (MoH) 11 persons (including 6 civilians) were killed and more than 18 were injured due to the clashes and indiscriminate shelling.

### Current situation:

- The indiscriminate attacks, shelling and usage of medium and heavy weapons in populated areas continued and resulted in the loss of many of civilian;
- Majority of the newly displaced families are hosted by friends, families and relatives; while approximately 200 families took shelter in 5 schools across Tripoli.
- In conflict affected areas, there are reports that banks, markets and roads are closed. The fighting also affected the electricity and water networks and limited caused access to food, health and other basic services;
- Flights in and out of Mitiga Airport were suspended on the evening of August 31, 2018, and the airport has not been reopened to date.



### LIBYANS CROSSING THE MEDITERRANEAN

On 23 September 2018, MSF reported that the Aquarius rescue ship has rescued a group of migrants and refugees in the Mediterranean, 37 Libyans among the group; The majority of Libyans are children, unaccompanied children, women and families. The main reason behind trying to go to Europe was the ongoing conflict in Libya and discrimination against minorities in Libya

UNHCR reported an increasing number of Libyans joining mixed migratory movements en route to Europe. In 2017, **1,234 Libyan nationals** (including 216 unaccompanied and separated children) arrived in Italy by sea. Despite a 34% decrease in overall sea arrivals in Italy in 2017, **Libyans reaching Italian shores in 2017 increased by 39%, compared to 2016.**

#### Reasons for leaving Libya:

- (a) Growing insecurity, including terrorist threats. Libyans reported that the security situation has worsened in the country, also for Libyan nationals (e.g. risk of kidnapping).
- (b) Lack of basic services and job opportunities;
- (c) Medical reasons and impossibility to receive treatment in Libya (this was mostly reported by families, almost all of which intended to travel to northern Europe, to access better healthcare);
- (d) Intention to join family members in other European countries.

