

WHO Libya biweekly operational update 1-14 November 2019

General developments: political & security situation

- The general security situation in Libya was characterized with active armed conflict, criminality and hazard/safety incidents. West – Tripoli: Clashes and skirmishes took place in the Tweisheh and Salahaddin areas, Ain Zara and Wadi Rabia, Tripoli International Airport. Increased of LNA ground and air operations highlighted its strong resolve to push forward into Tripoli. East: The region remained relatively calm, but crime related arrests and other security incidents were reported.
- A Presidency Council (PC) decree dated 13 October 2019, which recently surfaced on social media, has created pressure on the Central Bank of Libya (CBL)/Tripoli to consider all Russian printed dinars as counterfeit.
- The United Nations Support Mission in Libya (UNSMIL) head, Ghassan Salame, revealed six points related to the agenda of the upcoming Berlin conference on Libya. The six points included a return to the political process, ceasefire terms, implementation of a UNSC resolution to prevent the flow of arms into Libya, the revival of the economic reform programme, including implementing security arrangements across Tripoli, in addition to applying international humanitarian law. Meanwhile, Salame noted three pre-conditions during the preparatory process for the Berlin conference including; setting a date for the conference only after an agreement between major powers is confirmed; an immediate UNSC resolution translating an international consensus; and the inclusion of regional organisations and neighbouring countries in a follow-up committee to assist the mission in reaching agreements. Meanwhile, Salame stated that their work is separated into two phases, including an attempt to bridge the gap between disputed countries, as well as reaching Libyan factions reaching an understanding.
- Libya's state National Oil Corporation (NOC) reported a 21 percent increase in oil revenues in October compared to September. Oil revenues for October were US\$ 2.2 billion, an increase of 381 US\$ million (21 percent) compared the previous month.
- The Libyan Transportation Ministry has denounced the mandatory landing of a Libyan Airlines flight, heading to Jordan from Misrata Airport, in Benina Airport in Benghazi by the east-based authorities. Earlier military authorities of Khalifa Haftar in eastern Libya issued an order to force-land any planes taking off from Misrata and Mitiga Airports in western Libya for "security and customs reasons".
- The Libyan Presidential Council has ordered a decrease of 40% in salaries of its government ministers and its own members, including the Head Fayez Al-Sarraj, and another decrease of 30% in salaries of Presidential Council's advisers, starting 2020.

KEY HEALTH ISSUES

Two new MDR TB cases detected in Benghazi area – an urgent need to fill in the gap with the required TB medicines. Reported lack of other specialized medicines including ARVs and insulin in the East.

OPERATIONAL UPDATES

Leadership

- Took part in the Health and Peace Building Meeting by the Government of Oman, Switzerland and WHO/EMRO held on 31st October & 1st November 2019 in Geneva, Switzerland.
- Leading resource mobilization activities (Germany, USAID/OFDA, DfID, France, Italy).

Coordination

- Finalized and presented health sector needs analysis during 2020 HRP consultative workshop.
- Facilitated participation of the MoH delegation in the 2020 HRP consultative workshop.
- Finalized severity scale and PIN of health assistance for 2020 HNO.
- Worked on the update of health sector relevant inputs for the update of UN Strategic Framework (January – September 2019).

- Operational follow up on the situation with health service provision at GDF experiencing unexpected influx of migrants from one of the closed detention centers.
- Reviewed the consolidated October data of 4W health sector 2019 HRP
- Briefed inputs to EMRO for ongoing process of preparation of a Guiding Document for Implementing the Humanitarian-Development-Peace Nexus (HDPNx) for Health.
- Conducted discussions for follow up action for health sector guidance on expenditures tracking in JMMI and potential MEB revision.
- Finalized biweekly operational update of health sector covering the period of 1-15 November.
- Conducted discussions for follow up action with GBV sub-sector, Expertise France, Voluntas Advisory.

HEALTH OPERATIONS

Surge response missions are as follows: Communications Officer, Database Developer, Emergency Team Lead (for resource mobilization purpose).

Sub-office Sabha

- The EMTs continue their work and provided the needed medical services to the community and the IDPs.
- Details of delivered health supplies are reflected under the logistics update.

Sub-office Al-Bayda/Benghazi

- Participated in the two East ACG meetings conducted in Benghazi: the first meeting to update on the consultative meeting with key stakeholders in the East, and flooding preparedness; the second meeting on Multi-Sector Needs Assessment (MSNA).
- Site visit to assess progress of work in EOC-Benghazi (follow up the installation of ICT Equipment in EOC Benghazi).
- Discussion with General managers of Benghazi and Tripoli Children Hospitals to discuss pre-arrangements of a planned training courses for doctors and nurses from the two hospitals in Ospedale Pediatrico Bambino Gesù in Rome.
- Collaborate with health authorities to prepare for the flu season.
- Provided the requested support to UNSMIL.

Sub-office Tobruk, including on AAP

- Following up and coordinating with MOH, NCDC, universities and NGOs in different cities to celebrate the World Awareness of Antimicrobial resistance (WAAW 2019), the activities in Tripoli and Benghazi started. The materials have been printed and delivered.
- Facilitated Arabic translation and post WHO activity on WHO official pages on social media (FB, twitter) and follow up the comments and inbox.
- Coordinated with focal points in all areas where WHO' mobile medical teams work throughout Libya to report AAP and patient satisfaction in different projects.
- Co-facilitated the IMNCI training from 22-25 October 2019 and TOT training workshop for Primary Care Nurses in Libya under DFID project.
- Organized and coordinated for conducting a cascade training workshop for primary health care nurses workforce in Tobruk, Albaida and Birgin which will take place in Albaida 17-21 November 2019.
- Attended education day about a seasonal flu in preparation to the upcoming campaign with national health authority in Tobruk Thursday, November 15, 2019.

Secondary health care & trauma

S.No	Team	Donor	Specialties	Duty stations	Major surgery	Minor surgery	Consultation
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1	Gharyan EMT	CERF	Orthopedic	Gharyan GH	9	10	174
2	Tarhouna EMT	CERF	Anaesthesia ,Ortho General Surgery Vascular Surgery	Tarhouna GH	128	72	93
3	Misrata EMT	DFID	Anaesthesia Orthopedic General Surgery Vascular Surgery	Misrata medical Center	21	69	-
4	Al Jofra EMT	DFID	Anesthesia Orthopedic General Surgery	Houn Al Afia GH	38	42	81
5	Benghazi MMT	OFDA	Pediatric Internal medicine Gynecology Dermatology GP	Benghazi Al Majori PC Tawergha IDPs Camps			483
6	Ejdabia MMT	OFDA	Pediatric Internal medicine Dermatology GP	Ejdabia			444
7	Tarhouna MMT	OFDA	Pediatric Gastroenterologist Dermatology	Tarhouna PC			340
8	Al Wahat Psychiatrist	CERF	Psychiatrist	Al wahat Ejdabia Benghazi			166
9	Sabha Psychiatrist	CERF	Psychiatric Practitioner	Sabha Alshati Ubari			No Update
10	Sabha MMT	ECHO	Anesthesia Urology + ENT	Sabha Medical Center	61		88
11	Ubari MMT	ECHO	Pediatric surgery +Internal medicine	Ubari GH	10		
12	Ghat MMT	ECHO	Dermatology GP + Gynecology + Trauma and Orthopedic	Al Oinat PHC Berket PHC		9	1,723
13	Tasawah + Edri MMT	ECHO	GP + Pediatric	Tasawah RH + Edri RH			709
14	Bent Baya + Al Greefah MMT	ECHO	Gynecology GP +Internal medicine	Al Greefah RH Bent Baya RH			952
15	Leishmania MMT	-	Dermatology	Tawergha GH NCDC Misrata			63
Total					267	202	5,316

Tuberculosis

Not available

IHR

Not available

HIV/AIDS

Not available

Mental health

- Preparations have been put in place for the visit of the expert, the IASC MHPSS Reference Group Co-chair, to Libya and Tunis. The objective of the mission: to support the Mental health and psychosocial “MHPSS” Coordination mechanism for Libya; to provide a situation analysis of MHPSS services and identifying the achievements, gaps and current challenges with recommendations on ways forwards. A number of meetings took place with national stakeholders, UN agencies, INGOs, etc.

GBV

Not available

Primary Health Care

- Developed the agenda of the two weeks ToT workshop for PHC nursing workforce in collaboration with Faculty of Nursing and MoH Nursing Committee and shared it with MoH for their review and comments.
- Conducted the opening of the workshop and co- facilitated various technical sessions.
- Convened each day a feedback meeting at the end of the day with Regional Advisor for Nursing, Midwifery and Allied Health Personnel and facilitators from Faculty of Nursing of Jordan University of Science and Technology (JUST) to discuss various aspects of the workshop proceedings.
- Participated in HNO 2020 Joint Needs Analysis workshop on 30th October 2019.
- Co- facilitated various practical sessions during the visit of participants to two PHC centers in Tunis.
- Facilitated the concluding sessions with regard to preparation of a comprehensive national plan of action which delineated the forthcoming interventions in relation to implementation of next steps especially cascade trainings
- Developed the press release related to the proceedings and outcomes of the workshop.
- Developed the capacity building plan for WHO Country Office Staff.
- Participated in the meeting with colleagues from Italian Corporation to discuss their planned proposal for a PHC project.
- Prepared responses to donor comments in relation to revised concept note on mental health project.
- Convened discussions with UNICEF to develop the facilitators manuals and organize joint ToT on IMNCI in Libya.
- Finalized external review process of Libya master indicator list with WHO EMRO and team primary health care measurement and improvement initiative.
- Participated in teleconference meeting with MoH and NCD department unit of tobacco free initiative, EMR office.
- Provided technical assistance to MoH in regard to the submission of Libya application form to join FCTC 2030 project.

EPI/AFP/ Measles surveillance program

- Communication with EMRO to provide technical support to carrying out EPI desk review.
- Planning and travel arrangements have been completed to conduct integrated field supportive supervision for AFP, Measles and EWARN programs which will be implemented during 17 – 21 November 2019.
- Libya participation in World Polio Day celebrations: An event organized by NCDC/MOH on 24th October 2019 at Bab Albaher Hotel. The chief guests for the occasion were WHO and UNICEF representation. Opening speech and presentation delivered on behalf of WR Libya by WHO POL/EPI Senior National Officer. The Theme for World Polio Day 2019 was “Stories of Progress: Past and Present for World Polio Day”. The day is observed to raise the awareness for polio vaccination and eradication of polio. The world celebrated certification of eradication of indigenous wild poliovirus type 3 worldwide as a collective achievement.
- Continue communication with NCDC Director General regarding EPI health issues and sharing of monthly EPI data.
- Team of 2 WHO (EPI/POL & EWARN) and 3 NCDC officers conducted several field visits aiming to support and supervise AFP/MR/EWARN surveillance activities at healthcare facility level. Initial mission targeted total of 6 municipalities (Misurata, Subrata, Zolten, Surman, Ejmail and Zwara) covered 4 hospitals, 2 polyclinics and 9 PHCs. Rapid assessment , group training and on job mentoring and supervision was performed.

- Collected, analyzed and summarized AFP weekly report (Total AFP cases reported as on EPI-Week 45, 2019 = 87; Early detection and notification within 7 days of paralysis in 2019 = 79 (91%); Early investigation within 48 hours from date of notification in 2019 = 87 (100%); Annualized Non-Polio-AFP rate = 3.9/100,000 U15 years Children; % Stool adequacy = 83 (99%); Non- Polio Enterovirus (NPEV) Detection rate 2019 = 3%; Zero OPV dose for AFP cases reported = 0).
- Supported, analyzed and summarized Fever and Rash September surveillance report (Total of suspected measles/rubella cases notified 490; Total of measles cases confirmed by lab were 164, and rubella were 38; Total of double infection cases confirmed by lab were 18; No Measles or Rubella deaths in 2019; 45% of the confirmed measles were <1 year of age and 30% are 1-<5 years of age).
- Finalized last version of Libya National Measles and Rubella Surveillance Guidelines, EMRO technical clearance obtained.
- Preparing for design, print and disseminate AF, MR and EWARN surveillance aid tools, which will include A3 posters, banners, flyers and GLs handbooks.

Disease surveillance

- Supported NCDC and surveillance administration to strengthen and maintain EWARN system, issuing and disseminating weekly bulletin for weeks 44 and 45.
- Surveillance officer in close contact with malaria national focal point followed up the investigation on a suspected case of malaria (Ashati area).
- Jointly with WHO EPI and NCDC teams conducted supportive, supervision field visits, including to EWARN reporting sites, in Misurata, Subratah, Surman, Zelton and Zwara. The purposes of these visits was to support surveillance officers, review notification mechanism and raise awareness between physicians about surveillance programs and disease notification importance.

Health Information System and IM

- Finalized the SHAMS Project Annual Report.
- Reviewed and finalize the health indicators of Libya and shared with Regional Office.
- Prepared annual summary statistics report of 2016-2019 for PHCs and Hospitals of Libya.

Logistics

- Delivered 732 vials of Leishmaniasis medicine (Sodium Stibogluconate) and a patch (around 200 boxes) of HIV Medicines such as Lamivudine, Efavirenz and Tenofovir Disoproxil Fumarate to the National Center of Disease Control in Tripoli.
- Delivered 1 IEHK Basic Unit, 2 NCD Kit module 1b, 1 NCD Kit module 1b cc, 1 NCD Kit module 1c and 1/2 NCD Kit module 1a to Berket PHC in Ghat.
- Delivered 2 NCD Kit module 1b and 1 NCD Kit module 1b cc to Sabha Diabetic Center.

Procurement

- Prepared list of the bidding results for Measles lab supplies, on forwarding to the concerned national parties (NCDC surveillance department) for their technical acceptance.
- Follow up with/on:
 - FDA on pending inspection results for some medical supplies' shipments.
 - Dubai hub on delivery arrangements of two new shipments coming under ECHO and Germany.
 - Dubai hub and PMO on the submission of ex-batch with total amount \$460k for the two shipments under ECHO and Germany as a result of the reprogramming of remaining balance.
 - The contractor SITRA on the finalization of furniture installation in Tripoli EOC and to agree on the deduction.
 - The delivery status of the generators were purchased for both EOCs.

- LSP and GSC on the issuance of 6 POs after received the bidding results for ARI and skin diseases medicines under Difid 69138 (issued).
- With GSC and WHO forwarders on delivery status of supplies under Difid 67121, NCDKs and Lab supplies for PHCs.
- Issuance of PO covering TB diagnostic kit under IT 68292 (issued).
- Finalized the procurement of supplementary NCDK a, b & c under both Difid 69138 (3 kits) and IT Bef 69191 (4kits).
- Initiated communication with GDF on the purchase of LPA (1) for NTP program in coordination with LSP unit.
- Provided support, in the area of procurement, to the system developer in his mission to WCOLIY.
- Inventory of expired medicines at the warehouse as preparation for disposal.
- Provided emergency team with the Awards' information needed to develop distribution plan of the current stock in light of each projects' HF.
- Applied for the IMS Leadership/ emergency operations training 30 Nov - 5 Dec in Dead Sea- Jordan, and start taking the three online relevant courses.
- Share the SEA & AIR PO OVERVIEWS, from forwarders, with the logistic officer.
- Participated in making video highlighting the impact of the hub operations on emergencies in the Region and the role of the men and women behind the scenes making things happen and driving change on the ground. The video is needed for the RD and DG visit to Dubai hub.
- Responded to donor comments, ECHO 8101, re supplies and distributions listed in the final technical report.

Program management and resource mobilization

- Working on the Financial management report for award 65908 and FCFS, coordinate with HQ on other requirements for closing EU project.
- Followed up with technical staff on the carry-forward of awards beyond 2019, and T-AMR Forms to carry forward the required funds from (DFID I- A67121) to next biennium has been implemented.
- Worked on the Development of Activity Workplans (using the Workplanner in GSM) for the SP1, SP2, SP4 and operational planning done in the system for Libya Outputs mentioned with in GPW13 for PB2020-2021.
- Consolidate the Technical inputs about their OCR budget allocations for 2020-21 and start the preparation for OCR workplan based on OCR guidance note received recently.
- Regular Monitoring to Libya awards and provide the WR with updated reports on the delays in project implementation and expenditures for both award ECHO & GERMANY to find the fast solutions as well as prepare all required ex-batches related to these two awards based on the WR's instruction.
- Regular monitoring to Donors report due dates and send to all Technical Officers for their attention/action
- Provide the Technical Officers with all required information for No cost extension of DFID II.
- Monitored mismatches and corrected them in the GSM.
- Based on PME guidance, updated the draft HR plan with list of positions required to respond to implications of CSPs (using the web-tool) and add the missing outputs in the GSM to be used for the transfer of HR from webtool to GSM..

KEY GAPS & CHALLENGES

EPI

- Shortage of vaccines reported from some areas: 64% of open PHC centers in the West region and 51% in Tripoli region do not provide immunization services; Vaccine (Hexa) is not available in 558 (62%) of open PHC facilities. Vaccine (MMR) is not available in 541 (60%) of open PHC facilities.
- Poor capacity building regarding EPI (MLM/EVM/Refresher).
- Risk of vaccine damage due to frequent power outages.
- Monthly vaccination data and vaccine stock status (national and municipality) level is not being shared by NCDC. So that difficult to know the immunization access, availability, coverage and vaccine stock.

AFP

- Hard to reach areas are not comprehensively covered, even by the EWARN system.
- Continuous influx of migrants from endemic and high-risk countries posing the danger of Polio importation and other vaccine preventable diseases outbreaks.

East/Benghazi:

Severe shortage of MDR-TB medicines in Benghazi Chest Hospital and diagnosis of two new cases of MDR-TB.

South:

- Shortages of medical supplies, medicines (including insulin, ARV and hepatitis) and health staff.
- Increase of registered cases of suspected Malaria with severe shortages of the treatment (especially for pediatric age groups).
- A number of health facilities and warehouses in MSO Fazzan needs maintenance and repair.

RESPONSE PRIORITIES

South:

- Continue distribution of essential drugs and medical supplies across the south.
- Maintenance of the one of the main MSO Fazzan warehouses to be used by WHO as a storing place for contingency stock.
- Raise the awareness of the communicable disease with health promotion campaigns.