

Durable Solution Assessment: Tripoli Central Municipality

March, 2024 | Tripoli | Libya

CONTEXT & RATIONALE

Since Gaddafi's overthrow in 2011, Libya grappled with persistent internal displacement due to armed conflicts. The security situation improved post-October 2020 ceasefire, leading to a gradual resolution reflected in increasing returns over the past two years.¹

Efforts to address displacement include the government's adoption of a Durable Solutions Strategy (2022-2025) aligned with the 2010 Inter-Agency Standing Committee Framework (IASC).² Despite past needs assessments including IOM's Displacement Tracking Matrix (DTM)³, comprehensive data on Internally Displaced Persons (IDPs), especially regarding durable solutions, remains limited.

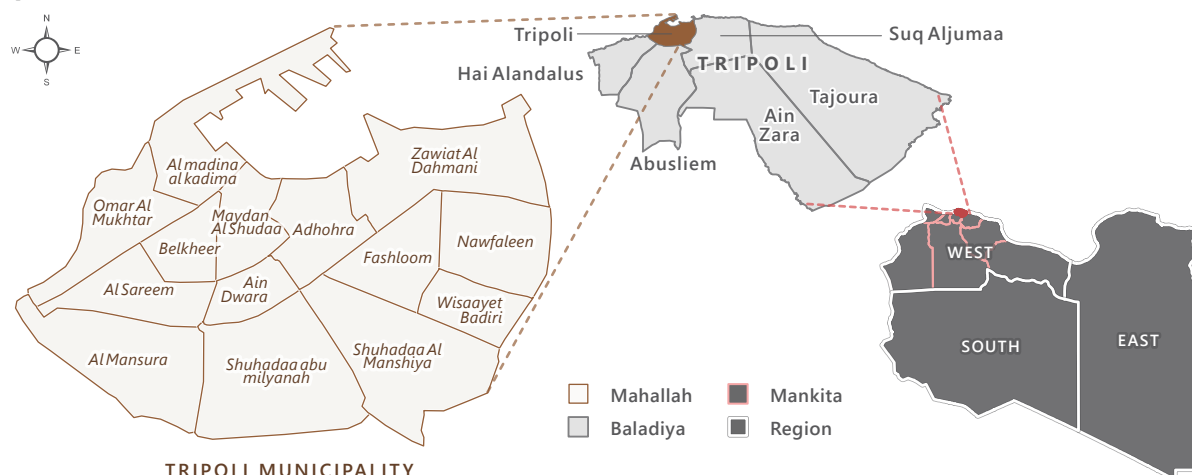
The present Durable Solutions Assessment extends the insights gained from the REACH's 2022 Libyan Multi-Sector Needs Assessment (MSNA)⁴ to create a qualitative toolkit⁵ for area-based analysis focusing on durable solutions. This toolkit is designed to be versatile for use in various locations with minimal customization, prioritize the participation of the affected population, and cover the essential aspects of the durable solutions' analytical framework.

Tripoli has been chosen as the initial location out of the four due to the large presence of IDPs in the Mantika as a whole (17145 individuals)⁶ and in consideration of its suitability for authorization and operational purposes. According to IOM DTM R45, Tripoli Central Municipality hosts 3250 IDPs, all of them are on "solutions pathways".

KEY MESSAGES

- Despite apparent stability in Tripoli Central Municipality, recurring issues such as **repetitive displacement, property loss, physical harm, and psychological distress persist**, underlining the profound impact of security challenges on displacement patterns.
- Both IDPs and the host community in Tripoli Municipality have **shared challenges in accessing quality healthcare and gender-based violence assistance** highlighting the need for targeted improvements benefiting both displaced and non-displaced populations.
- IDPs from Murzuq in Tripoli face significant hurdles due to **additional registration requirements in the South**, leading to increased complexity and cost. The timely transfer of registration, particularly for children under 5, to southern regions is problematic, disproportionately affecting IDPs originating from those areas.

Map 1: Map of assessed areas





Long-term Safety, Security, and Freedom of Movement

The main reason for IDPs residing in Tripoli Central Municipality to leave their place of origin is the deterioration of the security situation in that area, as indicated by IOM DTM data. Despite many Key Informants⁷ (KIs) reporting stability in Tripoli Central Municipality, they highlighted recurring **concerns such as repetitive displacement, property loss, physical harm, and psychological distress.**

“Armed conflict has always caused instability in our lives. Since 2011 we have left our home and stayed in camps, our lives have changed radically, we have been evacuated and displaced from one place to another. Even now I am married with children and I am still constantly on the move. I couldn't even finish my studies. This caused instability and the environment changed for us.”
- Female IDP KI in Tripoli

Social and financial instability, disruption of education, movement restrictions, and loss of livelihoods are additional concerns raised by KIs.

Safety of Movement

Fear of movement at night is a prevalent concern emphasized by all KIs, especially for women. Factors contributing to restricted night movement include the **presence of armed groups, harassment of girls, and the fear of kidnapping.**

“Going out at night is also dangerous for men because of security instability but more dangerous for women because they are more vulnerable to harassment.” - Female IDP KI in Tripoli

Conflict Resolution Measures and Assertion of Rights

Key actors in addressing safety and security incidents among IDPs include the police and local authorities, organizations and local Civil Society Organizations (CSOs), including the Libyan Red Crescent, and family members.

All interviews with Subject Matter Experts (SMEs) revealed challenges faced by IDPs in asserting their rights when reporting an incident. **Common themes include the lack of credibility in the process, ineffective police intervention, and limited assistance or biased support.**

“Depending on the reported party, if it involves a group of gunmen or armed forces, finding support can be challenging. However, if it pertains to an ordinary citizen, appropriate measures will be taken in this regard.” - Female IDP KI in Tripoli

Factors influencing the non-reporting of safety and security incidents by IDPs include a **fear of retaliation, lack of trust in authorities, and the perception of partiality.** Fear of maltreatment from authorities further discourages IDPs from reporting incidents.



Access to Basic Services

EDUCATION

All KIs consistently highlighted the crucial role of identity proofs, including ID cards, passports, and birth certificates, in facilitating the enrollment of IDPs in formal public schools across Tripoli. Notably, it's interesting to observe that **IDP students are granted an exemption from providing residency proof documents**, a typical requirement for non-displaced students. This exemption is strategically implemented to ease the registration process for IDP students within their area of displacement, reflecting **a targeted approach to address the unique challenges faced by displaced individuals in accessing education.**

IDP community leaders unanimously highlight the financial considerations and challenges encountered by both IDPs and returnees in their pursuit of accessing public education in Tripoli. Notably, a community leader from the non-displaced population emphasized the struggles faced by IDPs when attempting to re-register their children in public schools within their displacement areas. The financial constraints are further underscored, as **these individuals find themselves financially unable to afford private school alternatives.** This insight sheds light on the intricate financial landscape affecting the educational opportunities for both displaced and non-displaced communities in Tripoli.

Furthermore, the presence of indirect costs, including stationary supplies, transportation, school uniforms, remedial courses, photocopying references for university students, laptops, and food, is also one of the main challenges faced by IDPs. The need for support in providing essential supplies such as books, notebooks, and pens is emphasized by all informants. This reflects broader challenges in ensuring equitable access to education for displaced individuals compared to the non-displaced population in Tripoli.

Mechanisms and Support Structures for Education

A recurring theme among KIs is **the lack of a specific mechanism in place to facilitate education for children of IDPs families in Tripoli.** However, informal support and consideration to students' conditions are acknowledged by one KI, who mentioned that Tripoli University hosted some students whose original university was affected by conflicts. This underscores the need for more targeted efforts and coordinated mechanisms to address the educational challenges faced by IDP and returnee children in Tripoli.

“We played a key role in resolving many issues related to IDPs, facilitating procedures in banks, the education sector, and civil registry, as many families lost their official documents during their displacement. We were able to facilitate and issue all papers thanks to our personal relationships. We enrolled their (IDP) children in schools and completed all documents that IDPs were unable to extract from some administrations.” - A host community member in Tripoli.



Healthcare

Access to Health Services

Most KIs reported that **no specific documents were deemed necessary for IDPs to access basic public or private health services in Tripoli Municipality**, suggesting potential flexibility. However, two KIs highlighted the requirement for proof of identity for specific cases, such as complex surgeries, emphasizing a targeted approach to documentation based on the nature of the medical intervention.

Quality of Healthcare Services

All four KIs identified common challenges in the quality of healthcare services, indicating **shared struggles between displaced and non-displaced populations**. Challenges included the lack of essential equipment, blood banks, mental health services, and X-ray machines. Two KIs emphasized difficulties in performing advanced surgical procedures. Preferences for private hospitals, seeking medical care abroad, and punctuality issues among doctors leading to disruptions and delays were also highlighted.

Gender-Based Violence (GBV) Assistance Landscape

Challenges in the GBV assistance landscape in Tripoli Municipality were identified by key informants. These challenges include a **lack of means of transportation to go to hospitals, the absence of female medical staff, and the absence of special departments**. Positive initiatives, such as specialized departments for women with mental health issues and services addressing diseases like breast cancer, were also noted.

Table 1: IDP priority needs and problems associated with needs, highlighting Health Services as the predominant second and third priority need reported by IDPs in Tripoli Central Municipality, per Muhallah⁹

Muhalla	Priority Need 1	Priority Need 2	Priority Need 3
Adhohra	Shelter	Access to income	Health services
Al madina al kadima	Shelter	Food	Health services
Al mansura	Shelter	NFIs	Health services
Al masira al kubra	Shelter	Health services	Food
Al minshiyah	Shelter	Health services	Food
Assabaa min ibril	Shelter	Health services	Food
Shuhadaa abu milyanah	Shelter	Food	Health services
Shuhadaa Ashaatt	Shelter	Health services	NFIs



EFFECTIVE AND ACCESSIBLE MECHANISMS TO RESTORE HOUSING, LAND, AND PROPERTY

While a majority of KIs report that IDPs possess ownership documentation, the process is not without challenges. Legal procedures are often necessary, particularly in cases of loss. The government faces difficulties retrieving documents lost in a fire in the 1980s, emphasizing the importance of historical challenges. **This issue is not necessarily specific to IDPs but extends to the entire population. However, IDPs may feel its impact more acutely due to their heightened vulnerability to property loss.⁸**

SMEs reveal an absence or unclear mechanisms for restitution or compensation of IDPs' housing, land or property (HLP) properties, with some dating back to the 1970s. Local authorities, national entities, INGOs, and CSOs play roles in overseeing these mechanisms. Claims for properties seized or confiscated are common, but information on resolved claims is limited.

SMEs indicate that IDPs encounter various challenges, including fear of violence, bureaucratic hurdles, and the time-consuming and expensive legal process. External influences, tied to powerful individuals or armed groups, can obstruct legal decisions, further hindering restitution efforts.

"Displaced persons find themselves in a delicate and challenging situation, compelled to leave their host community with no option to return to their original area". HLP SME

Systemic and institutional barriers mentioned by SMEs include a lack of law enforcement, political instability, and the absence of centralized entities, exacerbate difficulties for IDPs seeking restitution.

Ensuring restitution for IDPs requires addressing key enabling factors. Establishing national committees, empowering IDPs through information dissemination, strengthening legal frameworks, and prioritizing assessment are identified as crucial steps. Efficient assistance, participation of affected populations in decision-making, and law enforcement are deemed essential.



ACCESS TO AND REPLACEMENT OF PERSONAL AND OTHER DOCUMENTATION

Possession, access to, and replacement of personal and other documentation

All three IDP KIs affirmed that most IDPs in Tripoli have their personal documentation. They provided insights into the procedures accessible to IDPs for acquiring or renewing lost documentation during displacement. The civil registry is identified as a crucial avenue for obtaining or replacing lost documentation. Notably, the Passport Office on Khairy Khaled Street is acknowledged as a facility for obtaining



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passports.

Overall, KIs conveyed a positive outlook on the accessibility and efficiency of civil registry services in Tripoli, particularly highlighting the Khairy Khaled center. This aligns with the encouraging feedback about host community members who reportedly play a significant role in facilitating procedures related to civil registry services for IDPs.

Barriers to obtain/replace documentation

The main reported barriers to obtaining new or replacing old documentation is **the lengthy registration procedures due to a high volume of requests and concerns about fraudulent activities**. Of particular concern is a revelation by a KI from the south, pointing out that certain documents, like birth certificates, require additional registration in the civil registry in the South, imposing an extra layer of complexity and cost.

Birth registration for children under five years old

Key Informant Interviews (KIIs) indicate a widespread and prompt registration process for children under 5, occurring shortly after their birth. Nevertheless, **challenges arise in the timely transfer of this registration to the southern regions, particularly impacting IDPs originating from those areas**.



VOLUNTARY REUNIFICATION WITH FAMILY MEMBERS SEPERATED DURING DISPLACEMENT

While some IDP KIs regarded family separation among IDPs as common, a counterpoint was presented by KIs who considered it less prevalent overall.

Geographical patterns became apparent, with KIs noting that family separation is more pronounced among IDPs from specific areas. **Notably, most separated IDPs in Tripoli were reported to originate from the eastern region of Misrata and the southern regions.**

KIs consistently reported that the separation of children is either non-existent or very rare. On the contrary, youth emerged as a demographic frequently affected by separation. Sibling separation was acknowledged to a lesser extent, along with male family members, and other extended family members such as uncles.

The triangulation of findings indicates that security and safety concerns remain primary reasons for family separations in Tripoli. Notably, new reasons have emerged since 2019, including seeking better economic opportunities and integration in the location of displacement.

In terms of reunification, **families demonstrated proactive efforts in seeking support through various committees in their area of displacement or origin, such as crisis committees and reconciliation committees**. A specific example was provided by one KI, highlighting the role of reconciliation committees in addressing common issues among displaced tribes and facilitating the return of

individuals to their respective cities.

However, challenges were identified concerning external and local governance actors lacking specific mechanisms for reunification. **Despite the absence of dedicated mechanisms, families expressed a strong desire to reunite, emphasizing the importance of addressing this aspect in comprehensive solutions for IDPs in Tripoli.**

ENDNOTES

- 1 2022 [Libyan population Multi-Sector Needs Assessment \(MSNA\)](#)
- 2 [Durable Solutions Indicator Library](#)
- 3 [IOM DTM R45 Public IDPs and Returnees Dataset Solutions Pathways](#)
- 4 2022 [Libyan population Multi-Sector Needs Assessment \(MSNA\)](#)
- 5 [REACH Libya, Durable Solutions Toolkit \(TOR\)](#)
- 6 [IOM DTM R45 Public IDPs and Returnees Dataset Solutions Pathways](#)
- 7 Refer to the [REACH Libya, Durable Solutions Toolkit \(TOR\)](#) for number of interviews per thematic area.
- 8 [REACH Libya, Durable Solutions Toolkit \(TOR\)](#)
- 9 UNHCR [Housing, Land and Property Issues and the Response to Displacement in Libya In Tripoli](#) (2013)



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METHODOLOGY OVERVIEW

The assessment employed a qualitative area-based approach, utilizing semi-structured KIIs to gather data from displaced groups and host communities. SMEs were also interviewed to capture contextual expertise.

36 KIIs were identified through the Danish Refugee Council's (DRC) network of beneficiaries. Data collection started in the first week of September 2023, focusing on open-ended questions about community perceptions regarding conflict and instability drivers and covering the eight IASC Durable Solutions criteria.

Consultations with the UN Resident Coordinator's Office and relevant working groups enhanced findings' interpretation and provided insights into how contextual characteristics may impact durable solutions' sustainability for returnees and IDPs. (see [TORs](#))

The primary population of interest in these assessments are internally displaced persons living out of camps, presupposed to be facing greater barriers to achieving durable solution objectives. Non-displaced population were also interviewed to contextualize the overall situation and understand the perceptions and attitudes of non-displaced communities toward displaced populations.

LIMITATIONS

The research encountered several limitations that are worth taking into consideration:

- Operational constraints presented challenges in locating male respondents to the Safety and Security KII, resulting in an analysis that exclusively centered on females. While this approach offered detailed insights into gender-specific safety and security barriers,

it lacked a comprehensive understanding of the perspectives of male IDPs.

- The stable situation in Tripoli Municipality, with a low number of IDPs, posed difficulties for KIIs in providing insights on the displaced population. Some respondents chose to address challenges faced by the entire population in the Municipality, encompassing both displaced and non-displaced individuals, especially those perceived as already integrated within the host community and no longer identifying as displaced.
- Coinciding with the onset of the Derna flooding response, some pre-identified SME KIIs were unavailable to be interviewed, while IDP KIIs were not mentally prepared to actively participate in KIIs and Focus Group Discussion (FGD) sessions. Consequently, the assessment team fell short of achieving three planned FGDs, specifically addressing Public Affairs, HLP, and Access to Remedies. Regrettably, the latter topic remained entirely unexplored in this assessment due to the prevailing circumstances. These challenges underscore the impact of external events on the research timeline and the subsequent repercussions on the comprehensiveness of the findings.
- This assessment aimed to encompass the access of IDPs in Tripoli Municipality to public affairs, with a specific focus on local elections. However, owing to the absence of local elections in Tripoli Municipality before the assessment period, the gathered data solely pertains to national elections. Recognizing this limitation, a decision was made to exclude the Public Affairs tool data from this factsheet.

ABOUT REACH

REACH Initiative facilitates the development of information tools and products that enhance the capacity of aid actors to make evidence-based decisions in emergency, recovery and development contexts. The methodologies used by REACH include primary data collection and in-depth analysis, and all activities are conducted through inter-agency aid coordination mechanisms. REACH is a joint initiative of IMPACT Initiatives, ACTED and the United Nations Institute for Training and Research - Operational Satellite Applications Programme (UNITAR-UNOSAT).