



Libya Emergency *Six Month Update*

September 2011

Foreword

Cover: Libyan children participating in child protection activities organised by Islamic Relief staff in Remada camp, Tunisia.

Spread: Choucha camp managed by Islamic Relief on behalf of UNHCR, Ras Ajdir, Tunisia

2011 will be remembered as a significant year for many North African and Middle Eastern countries. Revolutions in Tunisia and Egypt marked significant changes, in which citizens took to the streets to empower and involve themselves in the political processes of their countries.

The rebellion that erupted in Libya at the end of February caused much of the civilian population to seek refuge from the fighting. Islamic Relief began assisting Libyan civilians at the outset of the conflict, both in Libya and in Tunisia, which experienced a huge influx of people fleeing the violence.

In every emergency, Islamic Relief's focus is always to save lives and ease suffering, regardless of

whether the crisis is natural or political, and we will continue to help civilians fleeing violence in Libya regardless of their personal or political beliefs.

This six month update details Islamic Relief's actions and projects supporting people seeking refuge from the violence by fleeing to other parts of Libya, and in neighbouring Tunisia.

Thank you for your support.



Moustafa Osman

Head of Humanitarian Department
Islamic Relief Worldwide



Summary of Activities



Islamic Relief was one of the first international organisations to respond to the emergency, providing food, shelter, water and sanitation, and later medical aid and hygiene kits.

We began providing Third country Nationals (TCN) and Libyan civilians with aid in February and today Islamic Relief's activities are focused on easing the situation in Libya from the Tunisian border. As the situation develops, we are looking to extend our

activities across Libya as and when it becomes necessary.

We continue to provide emergency relief to people seeking refuge from the conflict, such as food and hygiene kits, as well as managing camps and a child protection programme in order to limit the long-term effects of the fighting. Islamic Relief also provided flights to non-Libyans wishing to return to their home countries.



Ready to answer the call
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Islamic Relief's team erecting tents in Choucha camp, Ras Ajdir Tunisia



TUNIS

Tunisia

Mediterranean Sea

Medanine

Tataouine

Remada

Dehiba

Ras Ajdir

TRIPOLI

Misrata

Az-Zintan

Kebaw

Yefran

Nalut

Jadu

Algeria

Libya

Niger

Chad

Map of the region

Islamic Relief has a long history of working throughout Africa and the Middle East and was one of the first humanitarian organisations to respond to the conflict in Libya. We are currently working across Libya, Tunisia and Egypt to alleviate the effects of the fighting.





Islamic Relief in Libya



At the outbreak of the conflict, Islamic Relief was the first international aid agency to assist civilians in the East of Libya, by providing 20 tons of medical aid and baby milk in Benghazi, as well as over 600 hygiene kits. We later organised a large hygiene campaign, to help prevent the outbreak of disease, removing over 10,000 cubic metres of waste from Benghazi city. Fun days were also organised for children with disabilities, with the aim of taking their minds off the conflict. Children were joined by their parents in a day of face-painting, games, arts and crafts.

In the city of Al Bayda, Islamic Relief supplied diapers and feminine hygiene products to over 600 families. We also supplied displaced people returning to the town of Jdabia with food and hygiene items, such as soap, toothpaste and towels.

In Misrata, a north-western city and one of the most heavily affected, Islamic Relief, in coordination with the World Food Programme (WFP), provided hundreds of families with hygiene products, as well as nearly 5,000 kilograms of medical aid, over 5,000 boxes of clothing and more than 35,000 kilograms of food.

In Western Libya, Islamic Relief provided hospitals in Zintan, Nalut, Kebaw, Jadu and Misrata with x-ray and anaesthetic equipment, medical supplies and fuel for emergency vehicles, allowing doctors and medical staff in the area to treat casualties of the conflict. Food boxes and hygiene kits were also distributed to the cities of Nalut, Kebaw, Jadu and other cities in western mountains region of Libya.



Islamic Relief in Tunisia

Many communities in southern Tunisia have hosted displaced Libyans fleeing the conflict. Islamic Relief is providing support to these refugees in host towns, distributing food to nearly 3,000 families every week, in coordination with the Swedish International Development Coordination Agency (SIDA). Working on a joint Ramadan distribution with UNHCR and other agencies, Islamic Relief was responsible for providing rice, sugar, milk and soup to the 40,000 food packs which were distributed throughout Tunisia during the month of Ramadan.

Islamic Relief has also been supporting the healthcare system, by providing medical supplies, equipment and fuel for hospital transport to medical centres in Tunis, Medenine and Sfax.

Working in camps

Islamic Relief is working in the Transit camp, as well as in Choucha, Remada and Al Hayat camps.

After initially assisting UNHCR with management of Choucha camp, near the Libyan border, Islamic Relief later took over full management, where we have carried out health and sanitation activities, as well as distributing food, hygiene kits and water. There are currently over 3,000 people living

in Choucha camp which at its peak hosted 18,000 people.

Islamic Relief implemented and manages a child protection programme in Remada camp, which has been running for several months, providing a school programme and games for up to 300 children. Our child-friendly space functions as both a school and play area in the camp offering children a wide range of activities - both educational and fun. As well as decorating the centre, children who attend to keep it tidy and clean.

We are also managing the Transit camp and Al Hayat camp, as well as maintaining hygiene and providing residents with food.

Border crossings

Islamic Relief distributed food packages at the Ras Ajdir border crossing between February and July. Working at the beginning of the crisis, we distributed water, bread, cheese and cakes, as well as hygiene kits to those fleeing the conflict. Dehibat border crossing experienced the highest number of Libyans crossing into Tunisia. In April, Islamic Relief was the only aid agency to set up a distribution point on the border, providing food to people fleeing the violence.

Challenges



*Third Country Nationals (TCN)
arrive in Choucha camp*

Due to the ever-changing nature of the conflict, there are many challenges that continue to arise and escalate, even six months into the crisis. As a conflict with opposing sides, chief amongst challenges for any aid agency is ensuring neutrality. Islamic Relief tackled this by assisting civilians only and focusing on life-saving aid, without entering into the politics of the conflict.

There is a high level of movement between and within Libya and Tunisia which renders the registration of refugees extremely difficult. Therefore it became difficult for aid agencies to ensure that there was no overlap in work and that families didn't receive more than they need to get by.

A key challenge faced was the reluctance of some people fleeing Libya who, neither citizens of Libya nor bordering countries, were reluctant to seek refuge from the violence in their home countries. This became very serious on occasion and at its worst resulted in an arson attack on Choucha camp. In addition to advising third-country nationals about the advantages of leaving Libya and Tunisia for their countries of origin, Islamic Relief and other agencies coordinated with the local Tunisian authorities and the International Organization for Migration resulting in an improved and more stable situation.





Stories from survivors

Naji Ali's story

Naji Ali used to live with his wife and four children in Nalout, western Libya until fighting broke out near his home. While his family fled to Tunisia, Naji stayed behind to protect his home, expecting the conflict to end and his family to return very soon. But as the fighting escalated and intensified, Naji decided to leave Libya and join his family in Tunisia.

Naji stayed with his family in Remada camp for four days but, finding the heat unbearable, he made enquiries about finding a home in Tataouine, Tunisia. Salah Hadad, a Tunisian, donated his house in Smar to Naji and his family. "I didn't know Salah before coming to Smar," explained Naji, "but now we have become very good friends; I am so grateful to Salah for all he has done for my family."

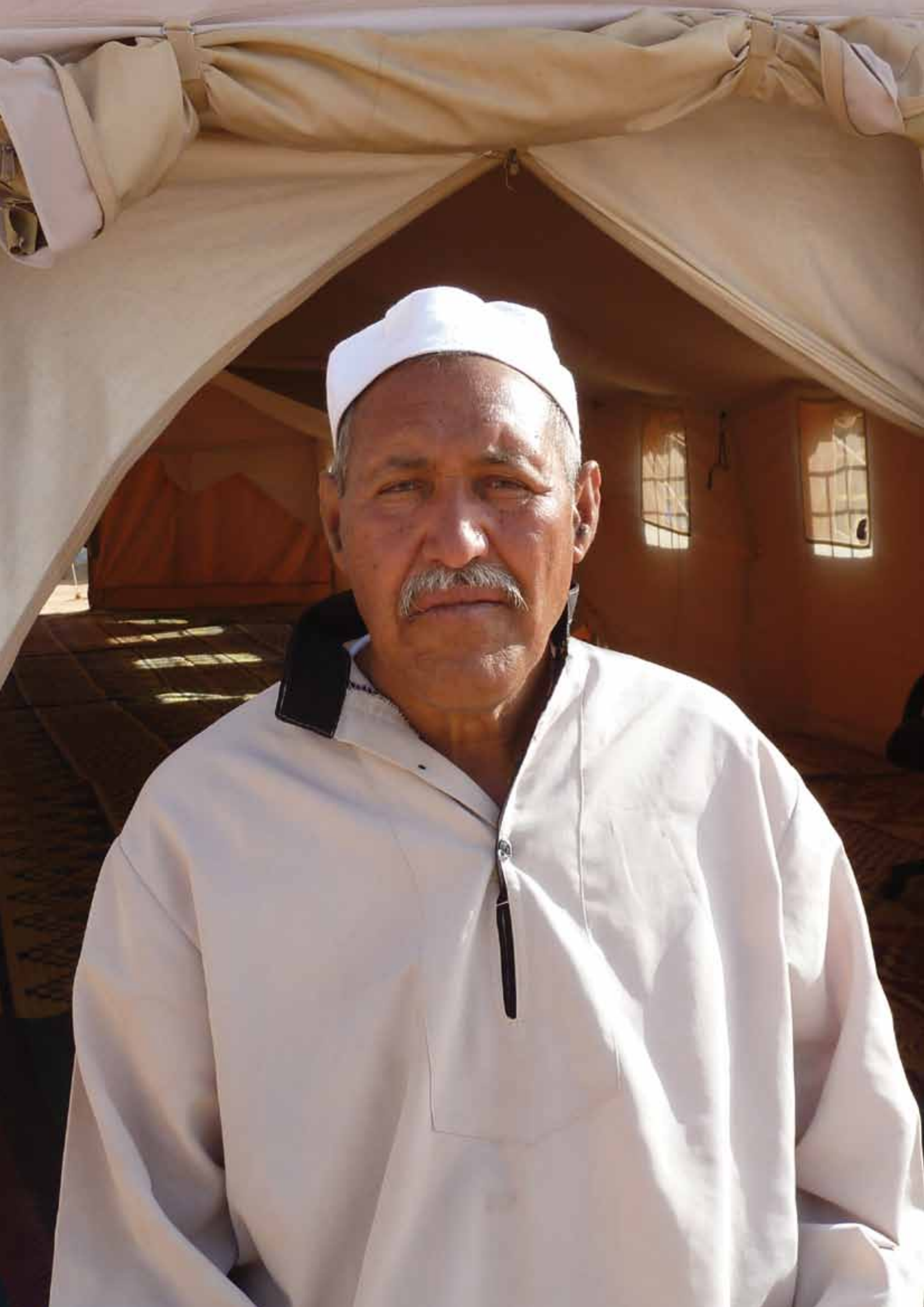
Islamic Relief initially provided Libyans -like Naji- fleeing to Tunisia, with food, water, mattresses and hygiene kits, but as the conflict intensified and the number of people fleeing rose, more consistent assistance was needed. Now Islamic Relief has established a regular distribution point through a local association, where we regularly provide food and hygiene kits to Libyans in Smar.

Naji was grateful to receive the food and hygiene kit to help him and his family through their stay in Smar. He hopes to return to his home in Nalout and dreams of his children living in a peaceful, stable country where they can succeed in their education.

Currently, Naji's eldest children, Ehab, 10, and Heba, 8 go to the local school and they have just completed their exams. Naji used to work as an administrator at the University of Law in Nalout and is keen for his children to receive a good education, so he is very happy that they were able to enrol in the local Tunisian school.

"Thank you to every single person in the world who has come to help Libyan refugees, and especially to the host community in Smar and people who support organisations like Islamic Relief."

Salah, who donated his house to Naji, now lives in his second home in Zarzis but he regularly returns to Smar to visit his new friend.



Stories from survivors

Ahmed Umar's story

Ahmed Umar used to live with his ten children in Nalout in the Nafusa Mountains in western Libya. As an accountant, he has always been proud of his youngest daughter, Iman, because she is a really good student. “Iman has always been top of her class, ever since she was young. She loved attending school and wanted to become a doctor.”

But after the conflict began in Libya, Iman's schooling stopped and Ahmed's priority became keeping his family alive, as they fled to Tunisia.

In April, Ahmed arrived in Remada camp in Tunisia, close to the Libyan border. He looks after all 23 members of his family, including several grandchildren, but conditions in the camp aren't perfect.

“Remada camp is very hot, especially during the summer months, we receive food from the Red Crescent but we get no salads or breakfast food. The lack of lighting around the tents makes it difficult to move around the camp after dark.”

Ahmed found it difficult to watch his children, who were so studious at school, hanging around the camp with nothing to do. So when Islamic Relief set up child-friendly programmes in Remada camp- including a school and games- Ahmed was one of the first parents to sign his children up. He is also a member of the Parents Association with whom Islamic Relief consults for advice on programmes and activities in the school.

Ahmed's youngest children, Iman, 12, and Leila, 14, both go to school here, as well as four of his grandchildren. Iman's favourite subject is English and she has just received an award from her teacher commending her fantastic contribution in class. Islamic Relief also organises exams for the pupils, in coordination with local authorities and parents, which minimises the effect of the conflict on their educational life.

Ahmed is saddened by the fighting and wishes for a day when he can live in peace. “Thank you for helping us to look after our children and for bringing them joy- even for just a few hours a day.”

Plans for the future



Libyan children participating in child protection activities in Remada camp

Islamic Relief is already planning to distribute 8,000 boxes of food every month over the coming weeks to Libyans in Tunisia. But as many families return home to Libya, we plan to move our operations with them, and continue supporting as many families as possible, whether in Tunisia or Libya.

We will also be distributing 24,000 family-size food packs over the next three months in the western Mountains in Libya, one of the heavily affected regions.

The situation in Libya is changing rapidly and Islamic Relief is prepared to increase aid and development operations in Libya, as and when it becomes necessary. Six months on from the onset of the violence, circumstances are unsteady and fluid but Islamic Relief teams have visited affected communities to assess the support need in Tripoli and the surrounding areas where we will be providing support once the need and accessibility are clear. Islamic Relief aims to continue to operate in Tunisia and Libya for as long as citizens require support and aid.



Summary of activities

*Islamic Relief Worldwide
and Partners*



<i>Project Name</i>	<i>Donor</i>	<i>Budget in £ GBP</i>	<i>Description of Intervention</i>
<i>Emergency medical aid</i>	IRW	£62,214	Early intervention medical supplies.
<i>Emergency food aid</i>	IR Italy	£8,898	Early intervention food aid.
<i>Emergency food and living items</i>	IR MEEM	£57,750	Food, medicines and medical supplies.
	IR UK	£20,780	Food, water, shelter.
<i>Sanitation and hygiene promotion</i>	IR Germany	£7,457	30 waste containers in Choucha camp, Tunisia.
<i>Repatriation flights</i>	IR UK	£29,220	Repatriation of over 500 third country nationals (TCN) from Tunisia to Egypt.
	IR MEEM & IR South Africa	£36,554	
	IR USA	£61,048	
<i>Food and home supplies in western Libya</i>	Qatar Charity	£46,484	Food, non-food items, and home supplies in the Western Mountains region of Libya.
	IR Canada	£190,665	
<i>Choucha camp</i>	UNHCR	£784,468	Management and maintenance of Choucha camp, registration of new arrivals, Food distribution, waste and hygiene management.
<i>Medical supplies in Libya</i>	IR MEEM	£80,431	Medical supplies for Mistrata, Libya.
	IR UK	£100,000	X-ray and anaesthesia machines for hospitals in Zintan and Jadu, Libya.
	IR UK, MEEM, IR Canada	£91,434	X-ray and anaesthesia machines for hospitals in western Mountains region of Libya.
<i>Assistance to Libyan Refugees living in Tunisia</i>	IR USA	£360,140	Food, hygiene kits, baby food, diapers, blankets and mattresses distribution in Tataouine, Tunisia.
	SIDA	£293,404	
	UNHCR	£8,981	
	WAMY	£3,636	Food, fridges and household items distributed to Libyan refugees in Tataouine, Mahdia and Soussa.
	IR MEEM & Qatar Charity	£90,943	
<i>Remada child protection</i>	IR USA	£180,245	Child protection activities in Remada refugee camp.
<i>Medical aid in Tunisia and Libya</i>	IR Canada	£459,402	Baby milk, medical equipment, fuel for hospitals in Western Libya, transport for doctors in Tataouine.
	IR UK	£50,000	Medical equipment for Jadu hospital.
	IR MEEM	£8,007	
<i>Transit camp</i>	UNHCR	£183,352	Camp management, maintenance and food distribution in Ras Ajdir Transit camp.
<i>IR Ramadan programme 2011</i>	IR Partners	£98,713	Ramadan Food packs distributed in western Libya.
	IICO	£62,306	Food packs distribution in Libya and Tunisia.
<i>Joint Ramadan programme 2011</i>	SIDA	£97,801	Inter-agency Ramadan distribution programme.
<i>Al- Hayat camp</i>	UNHCR	£592,252	Camp management, maintenance, registration, food distribution, hygiene maintenance.
<i>Medical aid in western Libya</i>	IR Canada	£37,263	Provision of medicine to western Libya.
<i>Total funding</i>		£4,103,848	

Photo map

TUNIS ●

Tunisia



Ras
Ajdir

Medanine ●

Tataouine ●

Remada ●

Dehiba ●

● Kebaw
● Nalut ●

● Jadu



Medanine, Tunisia: Medical Pharmacy supported by Islamic Relief

Tataouine, Tunisia: Food boxes being prepared in Islamic Relief's warehouse

Remada camp: Education classes for children

Dehiba: Food distribution to new arrivals at Dehiba border crossing

Nalut: CBC (Complete Blood Count) machine, part of the medical equipment donated to Nalut hospital

Kebaw: Food boxes ready for distribution in Kebaw, western Libya

Jadu: Medical equipment donated to Jadu hospital

Az-Zintan: Operation theatre in Az – Zintan hospital equipped by Islamic Relief

Alexandria, Egypt: Food and non-food items sent to Misrata from Alexandria

Ras Ajdir, Tunisia: Islamic Relief staff erecting tents in Choucha camp

TRIPOLI

Misrata

Az-Zintan

Yefran



Libya



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