BACKGROUND

Following the onset of clashes and shelling in Derna in May 2018, more than 35,000 individuals were reportedly displaced, many of them to surrounding areas of Derna, such as Al Bayda, Shahat, Alqubba and Tobruk, but also locations further away in Western Libya.

As the security situation has gradually been improving in most neighborhoods of Derna over the past months, at least 6,985 families previously displaced families returned to Derna. However, the security situation remains tense in parts of the old city where intermittent skirmishes between radical militants and security forces continue to be reported. In the rest of the city daily life reportedly normalized, yet a curfew between 7 p.m. and 7 a.m. is currently in place.

RETURNEE RAPID ASSESSMENT

Between 04 January and 07 January 2019, DTM Libya conducted a returnee rapid assessment in Derna to identify humanitarian priority needs. During the assessment, interviews were conducted with 290 randomly selected returnee families composed of a total of 1,819 individuals (505 men, 507 women, 807 children). Geographic coverage of the assessment were all neighborhoods in Derna, except the old city. Surveyed households in Derna returned to the neighborhoods of Maghar, El Bilad, Abu Mansour and Alajabilh. Furthermore, information was collected from 45 key informants across all neighborhoods in Derna. Findings were verified through observations by DTM enumerators where applicable.
FINDINGS

- Approximately two-thirds (67%) of the identified returnee population was able to return to their previous homes while others returned to Derna but are staying with host families (12%) and rented accommodation (21%).

- Damage to housing structures was reported to be considerable with many buildings experiencing at least minor damage, in need of shelter rehabilitation.

- The most frequently mentioned priority needs were food, NFIs and health. Those who did not return to their own homes and are staying in rented apartments or with host families overwhelmingly identified shelter as their most urgent need.

- Half of the interviewed families (52%) received humanitarian assistance. The main source of humanitarian aid cited by interviewees was ICRC and the type of humanitarian aid received food and NFIs.

- Basic services related to the provision of electricity, water and sanitation were reported to be available in all neighborhoods except the old city, although only intermittently in some cases. Likewise, schools were open and health facilities reported be functional (but limited in the range of medical services available).

- Suspected presence of unexploded ordnances was reported in Derna, particularly in the neighborhood Al Bilad.
SHELTER & INFRASTRUCTURE

Approximately two-thirds (67%) of the surveyed population was able to return to their previous homes while others returned to Derna but are staying with host families (12%) and in rented accommodation (21%). Among those staying with host families or in rented accommodation, most respondents identified shelter as their most urgent priority need.

Overall, damage to housing structures in Derna was reported to be considerable, both for residential buildings and public infrastructure. Many buildings suffered varying degrees of damage, putting them in need of shelter rehabilitation.

Availability of rental houses and apartments was reported to be sufficient to meet demand in all neighborhoods.

FOOD

Among surveyed returnee households, 81% identified food as one their most urgent priority needs; availability of food on local markets was reported to be adequate but respondents often relied on humanitarian assistance and purchasing food on credit to meet their daily needs.

WASH

Among interviewed households, 17% identified WASH as a priority need. Reported WASH priorities were equally split between needs related to water and to sanitation & hygiene.

The water network was reported to be functional in assessed neighborhoods and garbage disposal services available. Surveyed households flagging WASH needs also highlighted having insufficient hygiene items to meet their daily needs.
NON-FOOD ITEMS

Non-food items were mentioned as priority need by 66% of surveyed families. Availability of NFIs on the local market was reported to be good in assessed neighborhoods but returnee families are struggling to obtain needed items due to insufficient purchasing power and liquidity constraints.

The most cited NFI needs by those affected were blankets, mattresses and clothing (see chart below).

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HEALTH

Among the surveyed returnee households in Derna, needs related to health care and medical supplies were cited by 38% of respondents while 11% reported a household member to be in need of psycho-social support.

As it concerns public health facilities, 50% were reported to be fully operational, 38% partially operational and 12% not operational. Among private health centers and clinics, 57% were reported to be operational while 43% are only partially operational. For private health facilities, cost to access to health services was reported as constraint. Reportedly, available services in operational public and private health facilities are sometimes limited and do not cover all health needs of the surveyed population.