

IDP Assessment report

Nismah, Bani Walid

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Assessment Date	9 Oct 2011
Participants	ActiveIdeal, NTC Representative
Locations	Nismah, Bani Walid
Primary Source	James Quinn, Sheik Mohammed Abder, Mohamed Omar, Hassan Al Emam, Rawat Rufafa
Needs	Drinking water, food
Maps avail	Map of Tripoli to Nismah checkpoints IDP locations in Nismah (see link below)



NISMAH

Map Link:

<http://g.co/maps/q7spq>

Needs:

- Safe access routes for IDPs from east of Nismah to Mizdah and beyond
- Continued shipments of water and food
- Maintenance drugs (diabetic control, blood pressure, etc) if situation persists

- **Doctor & nurse to staff clinic**

Summary: As many as 5000 IDPs from Bani Walid, Tininany and surrounding areas have taken temporary shelter in Nismah public spaces and private homes. Many more have travelled on west to Mizdah and north to Gharyan. An unknown number of IDPs have left Bani Walid and returned to farms in the surrounding hills to escape the converging fighters. Supplies of basic necessities sufficient but strained.

10 sites visited in Al-Nismah

Name of site	E	N	Families	People	< 5yo	Date
Scientific College	31 23.486	13 19.827	12	91	9	10/09
Public Arena	31 23.394	13 19.863	3	32	6	10/09
Al Thwath Association	31 23.351	13 19.831	6	43	?	10/02
Public building	31 23.460	13 19.762	21	105	?	10/02
Rest resort	31 23.289	13 19.879	3	15	?	10/02
Mosque	31 23.304	13 19.686	>5	~50	?	10/09
Host family	31 23.305	13 18.421	2	12	?	10/02
Manufacturing plant	31 23.301	13 18.353	5	30	?	10/02
Kindergarten	31 23.478	13 19.915	4	30	?	10/02
Host families	Multiple	Multiple	1000-1500	4000-5000	>300	10/09

Observations:

- Al Nismah about 100-120 Km southwest of Bani Walid. Al Nismah has a resident population of between 15,000 and 17,000 people. Basic services include schools, one college, markets, and a police station.
- IDPs are staying in host families, but also in public buildings. IDPs in public buildings were observed when practical.
- During the visit, about 60 cars passed the checkpoint headed towards Mizdah. Many contained only 1 or 2 people. About 25% were completely full. About 40 Vehicles containing young men and arms were observed traveling east toward Bani Walid.
- During the trip south from Tripoli between 15:30 and 18:15, at least 5 obvious convoys were observed heading north totaling about 75 cars, 5 large trucks full of household goods. Within these convoys most vehicles were overcrowded with people. None were visible on the return trip between midnight and 02:00.
- During the visit 5 new families arrived from Bani Walid. They were soon housed in private homes in Nismah.
- Every new family head noted that there are many families who are reluctant to leave, and others who have moved only a short distance away from Bani Walid. According to several residents of Nismah, some of the IDPs passing Nismah stay overnight. The rest continue to travel west to towns Mizdah and perhaps onto Gharyan and Tripoli.
- A continued influx of IDPs will quickly overwhelm the capacity of Nismah to accommodate them. However, the relief committee and Sheik have committed to find shelter for everyone who requires it. There was some concern that tents would be needed, but nothing in Nismah

indicated that a tent would be useful or necessary at this time. Furthermore, flat and dry ground in town is now difficult to find.

WASH:

The only source of water for the town is underground cisterns filled with rainwater. Hand pump taps deliver unfiltered, non-chlorinated water in several locations. The quality of the water is regarded as poor and the Sheik attributed cases of kidney disease or failure to the water. No central water or sewage system is present. Standing water and ravine flooding have been a problem for the past 3 days because of heavy rains, complicating wastewater disposal. Latrines in the mosque are available for males. Females use the facilities in the public spaces and homes.

The Bani Walid/Nismah relief committee and Dr. Muftah Bahrut have distributed at least 500,000 liters of drinking water to the town. However, fresh supplies will be needed within the week.

Soap and hygiene supplies were noted to be adequate so long as supplies are delivered regularly. Diapers and female hygiene supplies are scarce, but available. Hot water is not available in the college housing about 100 people.

Food:

Food is regarded as sufficient to meet current needs. The Bani Walid Relief Committee has contributed a steady supply of WFP-provided basic food items. However, several IDPs noted that infant formula, tuna, cheese, sugar and milk are not available. It is unclear if privately hosted IDPs have had any problems accessing sufficient quantities. It is also unclear if the relief committee provides hosts with rations sufficient to cover the needs of their IDP guests.

Health:

Several IDP families noted cases of intestinal distress and diarrhea, but these cases quickly recovered. They also mentioned several cases of upper respiratory infections, but no doctor was available to confirm. IDPs and the resident population have significant numbers of chronic illnesses including diabetes and cardiovascular disease. The nearest kidney dialysis is reportedly available only in Gharyan, more than 120 km to the north.

The sole clinic in Nismah is staffed by a volunteer doctor and volunteer untrained nurses. Several noted that if fighting intensifies, the clinic would become a field hospital for the war wounded. However, no surgeon is currently present. The nearest hospital is located in Mizdah, 60 kilometers to the northwest.

Protection:

NFIs are needed, but amounts will depend on the numbers of arriving IDPs. 1500 mattresses and blankets will be delivered within a day or two.

Please contact us for HR concerns.

Education:

The schools in Nismah have not reopened due to the presence of IDPs in every public space. This is likely to continue until fighting ceases completely and people return to Bani Walid and Tininany. No activities for children are planned, largely due to inadequate space. Child-friendly spaces will be difficult to establish while the IDPs remain housed in public buildings.

Logistics:

Heavy rains the recent 3 days have made transportation difficult. Standing water and washouts have made off-road travel impossible for most vehicles.

Storage facilities in Nismah public spaces are sufficient to handle any incoming supplies of food and water.

Petrol is in short supply. The nearest petrol station in Mizdah had a queue of around 60 cars at around 17:00 on Saturday 9 October. Several short fuel tankers passed the checkpoint in Nismah taking loads east to the frontline as one resident said.

Electricity is mostly stable, but during our visit, power was out for the town for about an hour. Residents suggested that outages were frequent, but mostly short-lived.