



World Food Programme

SAVING LIVES
CHANGING LIVES



WFP Libya Country Brief June 2020

Operational Context

Efforts to reach a peaceful conclusion to the conflict in Libya continue amidst persisting political instability and a volatile security situation. Unrest since 2011 has caused the economic and humanitarian situation in the country to deteriorate significantly. Ongoing violence between multiple factions further aggravates an unstable environment, with ongoing political rivalries and violent struggles within the country worsening since April 2019 to the present day. The effects of the coronavirus pandemic and the restrictions implemented to prevent its spread have deeply impacted Libya.

WFP assists food insecure and vulnerable people in Libya, including crisis-affected internally displaced people (IDPs), returnees, non-displaced populations, refugees, asylum-seekers and migrants living in urban settings. The operation works under its Interim Country Strategic Plan (ICSP), which helps WFP and its partners to work with the Libyan people to achieve zero hunger by 2030, in line with the Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs). The ICSP includes general food assistance and emergency food assistance as well as the implementation of programmes that include school feeding and food-for-training for resilience-building and the empowerment of youth and women. WFP is increasingly engaging across the humanitarian-development-peace nexus to support the review and rehabilitation of pre-crisis social protection systems. This will be crucial in a post-conflict scenario to ensure social cohesion. In 2020, WFP plans to reach 182,000 people in need.

In Libya, WFP leads the Food Security Sector, the Logistics Sector, the Emergency Telecommunications Sector, and manages the UN Humanitarian Air Service (UNHAS) and the UN Hub in Benghazi.



Population: 6.6 million Libyans + 0.67m migrants/refugees (estimated)

In Numbers

99,020 people assisted
in June 2020



509,16 MT of food assistance distributed in June

USD 9.5 m six-month (August 2020 – January 2021)
net funding requirements

Operational Updates

- In June, WFP Libya released its [COVID-19 response report](#), which provides a summary of the worsening food security situation in Libya, as well as the operation's response since the start of the pandemic. The June 2020 WFP Vulnerability Analysis Mapping (VAM) regional update includes Libya as one of the countries whose levels of nutrition are most affected by the coronavirus-related restrictions and its impact on the economy. Crucial even before the pandemic, WFP's assistance has now become even more vital, in times where the socio-economic impacts of COVID-19 and the effects of the ongoing conflict mean people have even less access to food and healthcare services.
- In June 2020, WFP reached approximately 99,020 people in need through its programmes in Libya: general and emergency food distributions as a single agency, emergency food distributions through the Rapid Response Mechanism, food support through the new e-voucher modality, and school feeding.
- WFP Libya and UNHCR Libya [launched a new innovative partnership](#) assisting food insecure refugees and asylum-seekers released from detention with emergency food assistance. The project aims to initially distribute food assistance to 2,000 people with plans to scale up its support to 10,000 beneficiaries by the end of the year.
- WFP is fully aligned with Libya and the Ministry of Education's priority to ensure distance learning takes place while schools are closed to prevent the spread of COVID-19. WFP continues to distribute date bars as take-home rations for the schoolchildren and their families that are enrolled in the programme. In June, WFP reached 2,138 schoolchildren and their families. Distributions are undertaken by school officials outside of curfew hours and with all COVID-19 precautions in place.
- In mid-June, WFP Libya started its second round of food distributions through the commodity e-voucher modality to just over 5,000 beneficiaries in Tripoli. Each family received entitlements sufficient to cover two months of assistance, choosing seven food items from pre-selected commodities. Safety measures to prohibit the spread of COVID-19 continue to be stringently implemented.

Interim Country Strategic Plan (2019-2020)

Total Requirements (in USD)	Allocated Contributions (in USD)
64 m	38 m
2020 Requirements (in USD)	Six-Month Net Funding Requirements (in USD) (August 2020 – January 2021)
32 m	9.5 m

Strategic Result 1: Everyone has access to food

Strategic Outcome 1: Crisis-affected vulnerable populations in Libya, including schoolchildren, have access to sufficient and nutritious food during and in the aftermath of crises

Focus area: *Crisis Response*

Activities:

- Provide assistance to food-insecure and vulnerable people in Libya, including schoolchildren, and pilot complementary interventions that improve food security and nutrition

Strategic Outcome 2: Vulnerable populations across Libya have strengthened livelihoods and restored access to basic services all year.

Focus area: *Resilience Building*

Activities:

- Provide skills strengthening to vulnerable communities and enhance national and local safety nets

Strategic Outcome 3: The humanitarian community in Libya has strengthened capacity to assist vulnerable populations during and in the aftermath of crises.

Focus area: *Crisis Response*

Activities:

- Provide logistics sector services to humanitarian partners in Libya
- Provide air services for personnel and light cargo (United Nations Humanitarian Air Service - UNHAS)
- Provide common ICT to humanitarian partners in Libya
- The opening of the UN Hub in Benghazi, a UN compound shared by all UNSMIL and UN agencies

Monitoring and Assessment

- The June 2020 WFP Libya Vulnerability Analysis and Mapping report highlights that 76 percent of refugees and asylum-seekers adopted negative livelihood coping strategies to address a lack of resources during the pandemic. For 87 percent of displaced households, the reliance on coping strategies is higher. A major concern during COVID-19 is that 38 percent of displaced households have reduced their health expenditures to cover their basic food needs.
- In June, WFP's third-party monitor conducted 103 onsite visits to monitor general food distributions, including through Rapid Response Mechanism (RRM) across the three regions (East, West, South). WFP also carried two quick needs assessments, targeting vulnerable refugees in Libya and IDPs in Murzuq.
- Feedback received from 110 e-voucher programme beneficiaries indicate 100 percent satisfaction rate since the start of the operation.

- The inception phase of a decentralized evaluation began. Commissioned by WFP, the evaluation will assess its general food assistance to vulnerable populations in Libya.

Gender

- WFP Libya, in collaboration with the Regional Bureau Cairo, is exploring ways to conduct an online training in July on Gender-Transformative Programming.

Challenges

- As a result of the current insecurity and socio-economic impacts of COVID-19 across the country, humanitarian organizations including WFP have been receiving a higher number of requests for food assistance from national authorities, local municipalities and local leaders across Libya - estimated by 20 June at more than 100,000 people since March 2020, in addition to those that WFP is already supporting. According to the latest WFP estimates, the number of food insecure people in Libya is projected to increase from 336,000 to 683,000, of which 209,000 are migrants and 474,000 are Libyans.
- A lack of confirmed funding is impacting WFP's ability to respond to these new requests for assistance and additional funding will be required to respond to rising needs to ensure that this global health crisis does not also become a food crisis in Libya.

Core Common Services

- The WFP-managed Common Feedback Mechanism was selected by the Ministry of Health's National Centre for Disease Control to serve as a COVID-19 information channel and hotline. The [call centre](#) allows for quick remote health checks for callers, provides information on official guidelines and raises awareness about the virus and how to protect from it.
- The Logistics Sector concluded the Gaps & Needs Assessment, conducted with 15 UN agencies and INGOs discussing supply chain challenges in Libya. Preliminary findings reflect partner needs in this challenging context in order to respond smoothly, particularly in matters of coordination, information management, and facilitation of access.
- UNHAS, operated by WFP, is a critical service connecting the country, ensuring safe, reliable air access for the humanitarian and development community in Libya. Despite challenges flying in April and May due to clearance issues because of COVID-19 restrictions, in mid-June UNHAS successfully positioned its new plane and will be able to accommodate more humanitarian and development workers, providing vital access and essential COVID-19 supplies.

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