



Food and Agriculture Organization of the United Nations

Continued conflict, the blockade of the oil sector for most of 2020, and the COVID-19 pandemic have further debilitated the already weak economic situation in Libya. The protracted instability, and weak and fragmented governance, have deteriorated public service delivery, directly impacting people's ability to meet their basic needs.

Objectives

The Food and Agriculture Organization of the United Nations (FAO) is working with partners in the Food Security Cluster to:

- Protect the agricultural and livestock-related livelihoods of crisis-affected populations, and build resilience against future shocks.
- Strengthen the capacity of government and national partners to address food and livelihood insecurity and improve coordination in key functions of the food security sector.

Activities



Increase agricultural production

agricultural kits (improved cereal and vegetable seeds, farming tools) | training on good agricultural practices | plant pest response and training



Support animal health

emergency veterinary services (vaccination and treatment) | training on good practices for livestock production



Strengthen food security coordination

rapid needs assessments | data collection and surveys | emergency preparedness and response plans



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Libya

Humanitarian Response Plan 2021



to assist
12 300 people



FAO requires
USD 2.65 million



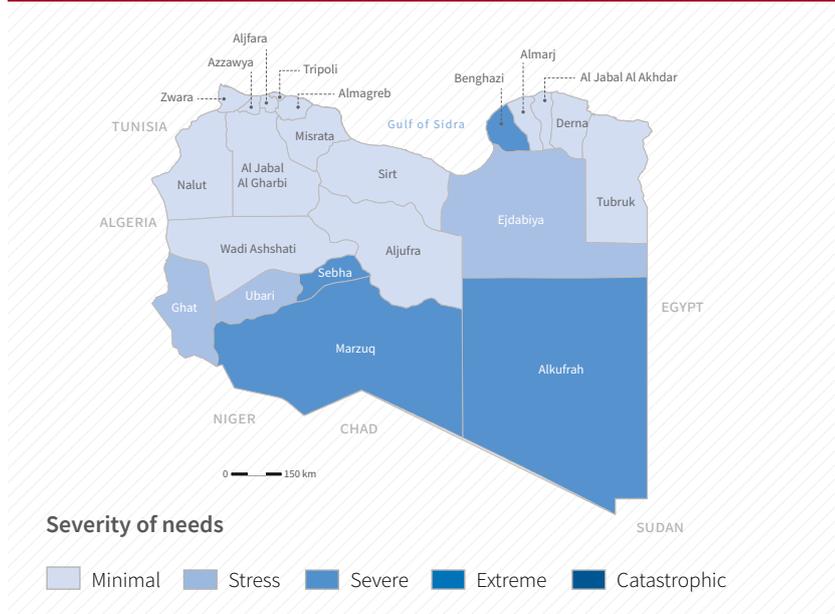
period
January–December 2021



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In addition to supporting household food security and protecting their livelihoods, restoring agricultural productivity is crucial to longer-term food security and sustainability, and building communal and national resilience against future shocks.

Severity of needs (2021)



Source: United Nations Office for the Coordination of Humanitarian Affairs. 2020. *Libya: Humanitarian Needs Overview 2021* [online]. New York, United States of America. [Cited 16 February 2021]. <https://www.humanitarianresponse.info/en/operations/libya/document/2021-libya-humanitarian-needs-overview-hno>

Situation analysis



699 000 people are food insecure and in need of assistance



63% of migrants using negative food-related coping mechanisms



74% of food insecure people are women or children

Impact on food security

Continuous fighting and instability across Libya, along with restrictions related to COVID-19, have had a significant impact on all aspects of food security. Libya is heavily reliant on imports for food (including 90 percent for cereals). Diminished exports from other countries, fluctuating exchange rates, a liquidity crisis, and movement restrictions due to COVID-19 have caused a supply shortage and driven up the cost of food (to more than double the pre-pandemic levels for some basic items). As a result, the number of food insecure people doubled in 2020. While refugees and migrants have the most severe food needs, displaced and non-displaced Libyans have also been hit hard.

This situation has been compounded by increased unemployment and underemployment, including for those engaged in the agriculture sector. Households involved in food production increasingly abandoned their activities in 2020 due to the deteriorating situation (45 000 households abandoned their agricultural activities in 2020 compared with 15 000 in 2019). This has had an impact on the country's overall food production, which is also suffering from the impacts of insecurity, water and fuel scarcity, the

increased cost of agricultural inputs, and labour constraints due to COVID-19. Transboundary animal diseases are one of the biggest obstacles to livestock production and development in Libya. The current lack of vaccines and veterinary drugs means the spread of zoonotic diseases is also a major threat.

Most Libyans are already marginally food insecure, making them more susceptible to further shocks. Restoring crop and livestock production – through the provision of emergency agricultural kits and veterinary services – and strengthening livelihood-based coping mechanisms through training are urgently needed to mitigate the impacts of the current crisis and increase households' ability to cope in the future. The collection and dissemination of accurate, timely and credible information is also needed to inform interventions in the food security sector.

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