In Numbers

820,000 people in need of humanitarian assistance (2019 HNO)
96,346 people assisted by WFP in December 2018
102,285 people WFP plans to assist in January 2019

Highlights

• In December, WFP provided General Food Assistance (GFA) to 96,346 people through food rations to cover their basic food needs.
• The UN Humanitarian Air Service (UNHAS) Libya, managed by WFP, continues to fly regularly between Tunisia and Libya, and increasingly within Libya itself.
• WFP signed a Memorandum of Understanding with the Government of Libya to begin a pilot school feeding programme in 2019.

Situation Update

• The Special Representative of the Secretary-General (SRSG) confirmed in November 2018 that elections previously planned for December 2018 would take place in 2019.
• Tobruk Port was closed in mid-December after gunmen entered the port and took items from a container. While this may force some shipping to be redirected to other locations, putting a greater strain on them, an impact on humanitarian operations is unlikely, as humanitarian assistance generally comes from regional procurement in Tunisia or Egypt, from local purchases, or is transported from further afield by sea or air into Tripoli, Misrata or Benghazi.
• Food insecurity remains a challenge due to protracted displacement, markets disruption, and lower food commodity production. Livelihoods and access to basic social services have been affected by the conflict, exposing the most vulnerable people to a high risk of inadequate food consumption and forcing people to adopt negative coping strategies such as spending their savings, cutting the number of daily meals and reducing non-food related expenses, particularly for health and education.
• Since the introduction of economic reforms in mid-September 2018 however, the increased supply of hard currency has resulted in the appreciation of the Libyan Dinar. According to the Libya Joint Market Monitoring Initiative, this has reduced the cost of imported goods for merchants and consequently prices on Libyan markets.

The Way Forward

• As the context in Libya changes, so must WFP’s response; as such, WFP Libya will start implementing its two-year Interim Country Strategic Plan (2019-2020), which allows for a clearer line of sight between donor funds, the activities they support and the outcomes for people in need. This will also allow WFP and its partners to work towards achieving zero hunger by 2030, in line with the Sustainable Development Goals.
WFP is increasingly engaging across the humanitarian-development-peace nexus to support the review and rehabilitation of pre-crisis social protection systems, which will be crucial in a post-conflict scenario to ensure social cohesion.

Under WFP’s new supply chain strategy, WFP shipments in 2019 will go directly to Libyan ports, which will help to strengthen the capacity, experience and expertise of local Libyan services.

WFP is making efforts to improve data availability of food insecurity and populations most susceptible to becoming insecure should the conflict worsen.

WFP’s new programmatic directions will focus on livelihoods, helping to stabilise the reconstruction process in the country, including through the gradual recovery and strengthening of national safety net systems. By introducing the Logistics and Emergency Telecommunications Sectors, WFP is also helping to strengthen the response of the broader humanitarian community in Libya.

WFP’s Response

• In October 2018, WFP activated the Logistics Sector and the Emergency Telecommunications Sector for the Libya Humanitarian Country Team. WFP is also taking the lead on opening a UN hub in Benghazi.

• Between 25 and 27 November, WFP Libya facilitated meetings between four Libyan Government officials and the Egyptian Ministries of Education and Social Solidarity, the Egyptian National Food Safety Authority, the Bisco Misr company CEO, WFP experts for School Feeding/Supply Chain/M&E/VAM, and National School Feeding programme beneficiaries in Egypt, with the support from the WFP Egypt Country office. The meetings aimed to build knowledge of similar programmes ahead of the implementation of the Libyan school feeding project in 2019.

• WFP signed a Memorandum of Understanding with the Government of Libya to begin a pilot school feeding programme in 2019.

Food and Nutrition Assistance

• Until now, WFP has been providing “Unconditional Resource Transfers” in the form of in-kind food assistance. Each family receives two food parcels, enough to support a family of five people for one month. The parcels consist of rice, pasta, wheat flour, white beans, vegetable oil, sugar and tomato paste. The food entitlements provide 75 percent (1,530 kcal) of the daily energy requirements per-person per-day. WFP is using beneficiaries’ feedback to revise the content of the food basket.

Logistics Sector

• With the initiation of the Logistics Sector in October 2018, the sector has been providing relevant logistics updates and guidance documents, conducting and sharing assessment reports to feed into the Logistics Capacity Assessment (LCA) portal, and setting up a logistics coordination and information sharing structure.

Emergency Telecommunications Cluster

• Since being set up in October 2018, the Emergency Telecommunications Sector (ETS) has been focused on streamlining the coordination mechanism among humanitarian actors. The ETS working group was established, ensuring a coordinated ICT response in the delivery of required services and the procuring of equipment for the establishment of services, such as reliable internet connectivity and security communications.

UN Humanitarian Air Service

• The UN Humanitarian Air Service (UNHAS) Libya, managed by WFP, continues to fly regularly between Tunisia and Libya. The flight, which serves the humanitarian and donor community, is currently flying three times per week to Tripoli and Misratah (Benghazi and Sebha on demand), which will be a weekly fixed schedule starting in January 2019. Flight frequency and destinations remain flexible based on access, needs and demand.

Monitoring

• WFP Libya, together with its call centre service provider, started the latest round of the Post-Distribution Monitoring (PDM) exercise with test PDM calls to the beneficiaries of in-kind food assistance. WFP intends to make 400 calls for data collection and analysis. On 07 December, WFP Libya started piloting the new procedure to manage incoming calls for registration purposes to reduce the response time. The eligibility of hotline callers will be quickly assessed by the hotline operators against the objective targeting criteria, as well as the past call records.

• As part of WFP’s ongoing efforts to scale up the monitoring and evaluation of its activities, WFP has been able to increase its presence during food distributions by increasing its in-country staff capacity.

• A workshop on beneficiary targeting took place in December 2018, involving cooperating partners, potential partners, local crisis committees, municipalities, the Libyan Ministry of Social Affairs, WFP's third-party monitor, the Libyan Red Crescent, and local Zakat committee representatives. All three regions of Libya were represented at this workshop.

Resourcing Update

• EUR 2 million (approximately USD 2.2 million) was confirmed and received from Italy for CBT at the end of November.

• WFP requires USD 5.3 million to continue providing food assistance to vulnerable families across Libya over the next six months.

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