



World Food Programme

SAVING LIVES
CHANGING LIVES



WFP Libya Country Brief December 2018

In Numbers

102,285 people **planned to be assisted** in January 2019

96,346 people **assisted** in December 2018

USD 5.3 m six months (February-July 2019) net funding requirements



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 struggle within the country from the many armed groups.

WFP resumed operations in Libya in September 2014. Until now, WFP's assistance has been in-kind food assistance provision. Each family receives two food parcels, enough to support 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 daily energy requirements per person per day. WFP is using feedback of those who receive food parcels to revise the contents of the basket.

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.



Population: **6.5 million**

2018 Human Development Index: **108 out of 188**

People in Need: **823,000 (HRP)**

Chronic malnutrition: **21% of children between 6-59 months**

Operational Updates

- In December, WFP assisted 96,346 people, who received 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. The service, which supports the humanitarian and donor community, is currently going to Tripoli, Benghazi and Misratah, with a flight to Sebha soon. Flight frequency and destinations will increase based on access needs and demand.
- In addition to activating the Logistics Sector for the Libya Humanitarian Country Team, WFP has now also activated the Emergency Telecommunications Sector, and is taking the lead on opening a UN hub in Benghazi.
- WFP signed a Memorandum of Understanding with the Government of Libya in order to begin a pilot school feeding programme in 2019.
- 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.

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 assist WFP and its partners in working with the Libyan people to achieve zero hunger by 2030, in line with the Sustainable Development Goals.

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Libya Interim Country Strategic Plan (2019-2020)

Total Requirements (in USD)	Allocated Contributions (in USD)	Six-Month (February – July 2019) Net Funding Requirements (in USD)
60.5 m	4.6 m	5.3 m

- 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. The operation is exploring the possibility of expanding its assistance through a larger range of more innovative modalities including electronic voucher systems and a school feeding programme.
- Under WFP's new supply chain strategy, WFP shipments in 2019 will go directly to Libyan ports, which will help to strengthen the capacity 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.

Monitoring

- Currently, WFP monitors its activities through a Libyan third-party monitor, while a Tunisian call centre makes approximately 150 calls per-month to the people in Libya who have most recently received food. WFP trained their contracted call centre (based in Tunis) on Post Distribution Monitoring (PDM), and is conducting PDM calls through them, covering distribution locations throughout the West and South of the country.
- 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 at food distributions across Libya by hiring more staff inside the country.

Challenges

- Food insecurity remains a challenge due to protracted displacement, disruption to markets, 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.

- Throughout 2018, food imports in Libya dwindled due to limited port access and road blockages. The prices of many staple food items such as rice and wheat flour increased by as much as 200 percent compared to pre-conflict levels.
- According to the Libya Joint Market Monitoring Initiative (JMMI), run by the Libya Cash Working Group (CWG) and REACH, "since the introduction of economic reforms in mid-September 2018, the increased supply of hard currency has resulted in the appreciation of the Libyan Dinar." This has allowed merchants to import goods more cheaply. Therefore, products in Libyan shops can be sold more cheaply.
- 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, there is unlikely to be an impact on humanitarian operations. 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, Misratah or Benghazi.

Operational Partnerships

- **Partnerships:** WFP provides food assistance throughout Libya through two local cooperating partners (CPs), the Sheikh Taher Azzawi Charity Organization (STACO) and Ayady Al Khair Society (AKS). Efforts are underway to significantly expand the reliable partnership base to ensure that WFP can respond immediately to needs throughout the country.
- **Inter-Agency:** WFP determines the most affected people in consultation with local crisis committees and partners. WFP collaborates with the Libya UN Country Team (UNCT) and the Security Management Team to coordinate its activities with other United Nations agencies, to assess the political and security situation and the resulting impact on operations.

Resources

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

Donors

Central Emergency Response Fund (CERF), Canada, European Union, Italy, Japan, Norway, and PepsiCo.

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Caption: The WFP Libya team in Zarzis, Tunisia checks a shipment of food getting ready to make its way into Libya