

## WFP Libya Country Brief February 2019



## In Numbers

**52,989 people assisted**  
in February 2019



**6,816 children under 5** assisted in February 2019

**US\$ 3.88m** six months (March-August 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 struggles within the country from the many armed groups.

WFP resumed operations in Libya in September 2014. Until now, WFP's General Food Assistance (GFA) 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 from 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. This will be crucial in a post-conflict scenario to ensure social cohesion.



Population: **6.5million**

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

Income Level: **Upper middle**

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

## Operational Updates

- In February 2019, WFP assisted 52,989 people, who received food rations through General Food Assistance (GFA) to cover their basic food needs.
- Heavy fighting led to dozens of casualties and caused the disruption of food distributions in and around Murzuq in southwest Libya in February. The International Organization for Migration's (IOM) [reported](#) that bakeries had been closed and that "other key food commodities, such as rice, pasta, beans, couscous, canned tuna, milk, tomatoes and vegetable oil" were largely unavailable in the last week of February, although "most local markets were reported to be open in Murzuq as of 01 March. With the security situation improving at the very end of the month, WFP prepositioned food in Sebha so that a response is possible once access to Murzuq reopens. WFP key informants in the region also confirmed that there is a shortage of cooking fuel.
- WFP continues to work with the Ministry of Education ahead of the start of a School Feeding Programme. Data analysis training is currently underway to prepare for a baseline survey that will strengthen the School Feeding Programme.

## Monitoring

- The WFP monitoring bulletin covering the January 2019 showed a significant reduction in the number of calls to WFP's hotline. As most calls are usually about registering for food assistance, this reduction can be attributed to stronger coordination with Local Crisis Committees and the Ministry of Social Affairs, who both support WFP in identifying and registering vulnerable families. In addition to the information on the Complaints and Feedback Mechanism, the bulletin provides updates on the effect of WFP assistance (outcome monitoring), remote verification checks, warehouse monitoring, and the monitoring of distributions themselves.

## Interim Country Strategic Plan (2019-2020)

Total Requirements (in USD)	Allocated Contributions (in USD)
<b>60.5 m</b>	<b>13 m</b>
2019 Requirements (in USD)	Six months (March – August 2019) Net Funding Requirements (in USD)
<b>29.9 m</b>	<b>3.88 m</b>

## 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:

1. 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:

2. 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:

3. Provide logistics sector services to humanitarian partners in Libya
4. Provide air services for personnel and light cargo (United Nations Humanitarian Air Service - UNHAS)
5. Provide common ICT to humanitarian partners in Libya

- WFP's latest monitoring data has shown that Libyan households are increasingly resorting to negative coping strategies to meet their food needs. Such strategies include eating less preferred food, practiced by 82 percent of households. The use of these coping strategies shows that the majority of the households had to change their eating habits to maintain a certain food security level and to adapt to the prolonged food security challenges in Libya.
- WFP's latest monitoring data has found that WFP food assistance has had a positive effect on the most vulnerable people receiving food assistance in Libya. In the West, 87 percent of households assessed had acceptable food consumption levels, up from just 68 percent in 2015.
- At the end of February 2019, WFP Libya began mobile Vulnerability Analysis and Mapping (mVAM), which uses mobile technology to track food security trends in real-time, providing high-frequency data that supports humanitarian decision-making. In Libya, this will be particularly useful for WFP and the humanitarian community as mobile phone networks are strong, while data and humanitarian access

continue to be a challenge. Once finalised, the mVAM report will be shared by WFP with partners.

## Challenges

- Dozens of people were killed because of fighting throughout February in and around the Muzruq Region, 100km south of Sebha. The United Nations Support Mission in Libya (UNSMIL) released a [statement](#) reminding "all parties of their obligations to guarantee the protection of civilians and the country's resources – which belong to all Libyans – by avoiding targeting economic facilities and putting civilians in harm's way." This fighting delayed WFP distributions in the area.
- In early February, the United Nations Office for the Coordination of Humanitarian Affairs' (OCHA) [reported](#) that "fighting in the old city of Derna intensified, and reportedly resulted in substantial numbers of civilian casualties." A subsequent visit to the city by the Humanitarian Coordinator was the first UN mission to Derna in five years. In a follow-up statement, the Humanitarian Country Team in Libya warned "of the dire consequences of the compounded humanitarian crisis in Derna, and calls for unconditional, unimpeded and sustained humanitarian access to the affected civilians in Derna."

## Funding and Pipeline Update

- WFP urgently requires funding in order to continue operating the United Nations Humanitarian Air Service (UNHAS) for Libya. Managed by WFP, UNHAS flies 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. An additional flight to Sebha will be added soon. UNHAS provides fast, safe and flexible air services for humanitarian organisations, including the United Nations (UN), non-governmental organisations (NGOs) and donor entities working in Libya, to be able to reach vulnerable population groups.

## The Way Forward

- WFP's Executive Board approved WFP Libya 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 help WFP and its partners to work with the Libyan people to achieve Sustainable Development Goal 2 (Zero Hunger) by 2030.

## Donors

Central Emergency Response Fund (CERF), Canada, Italy, Japan, Norway