

Thousands of IDPs, markets are resilient, food prices are increasing



Key Findings

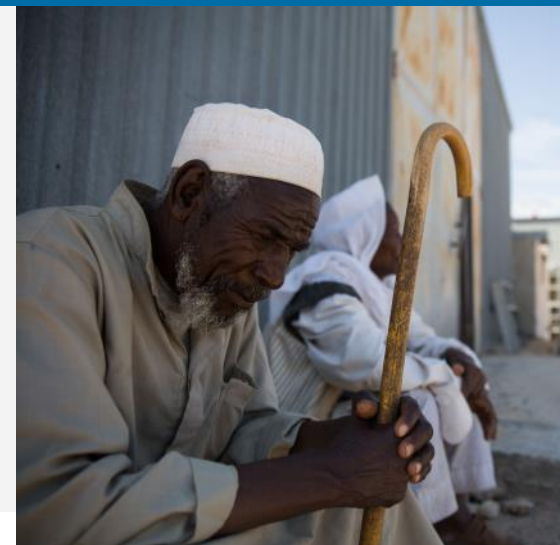
- Satisfactory access to markets in most of Tripoli (except suburban areas in direct contact with the clashes).
- Prices of fresh vegetables have increased.
- Minimal price variations for other food commodities and on the parallel LYD/USD exchange rate.
- Widespread water and electricity shortages.
- Health centres are reportedly open, but there is a severe lack of medicine.
- Schools in the West are closed until the end of Ramadan.

Context and Methodology

Starting on 04 April 2019, as a result of rapid military advances from the South of Libya, Tripoli's southern suburbs experienced high levels of conflict. **The deteriorating security situation has displaced over 78,225 people as of 19 May (IOM DTM) and damaged public infrastructures, including water supply and electricity lines.** 126 civilian casualties, including 29 civilian deaths have been confirmed. 3,371 migrants remain in detention centres in Tripoli and nearby areas ([OCHA](#)).

This mobile Vulnerability Analysis and Mapping (mVAM) bulletin is based on data collected from Libyans via live telephone interviews conducted between 16 April and 06 May 2019. The telephone numbers called were collected in August 2018 during a representative face-to-face assessment. Findings are complemented by key informants from WFP and partner organisation staff on the ground.

The data presented was collected from a sample of 66 respondents from 7 municipalities in and around Tripoli (Janzour, Abusliem, Ain Zara, Hai Alandalus, Suq Aljumaa, Tajoura and Tripoli centre). Responses are aggregated and reported at the municipality level.

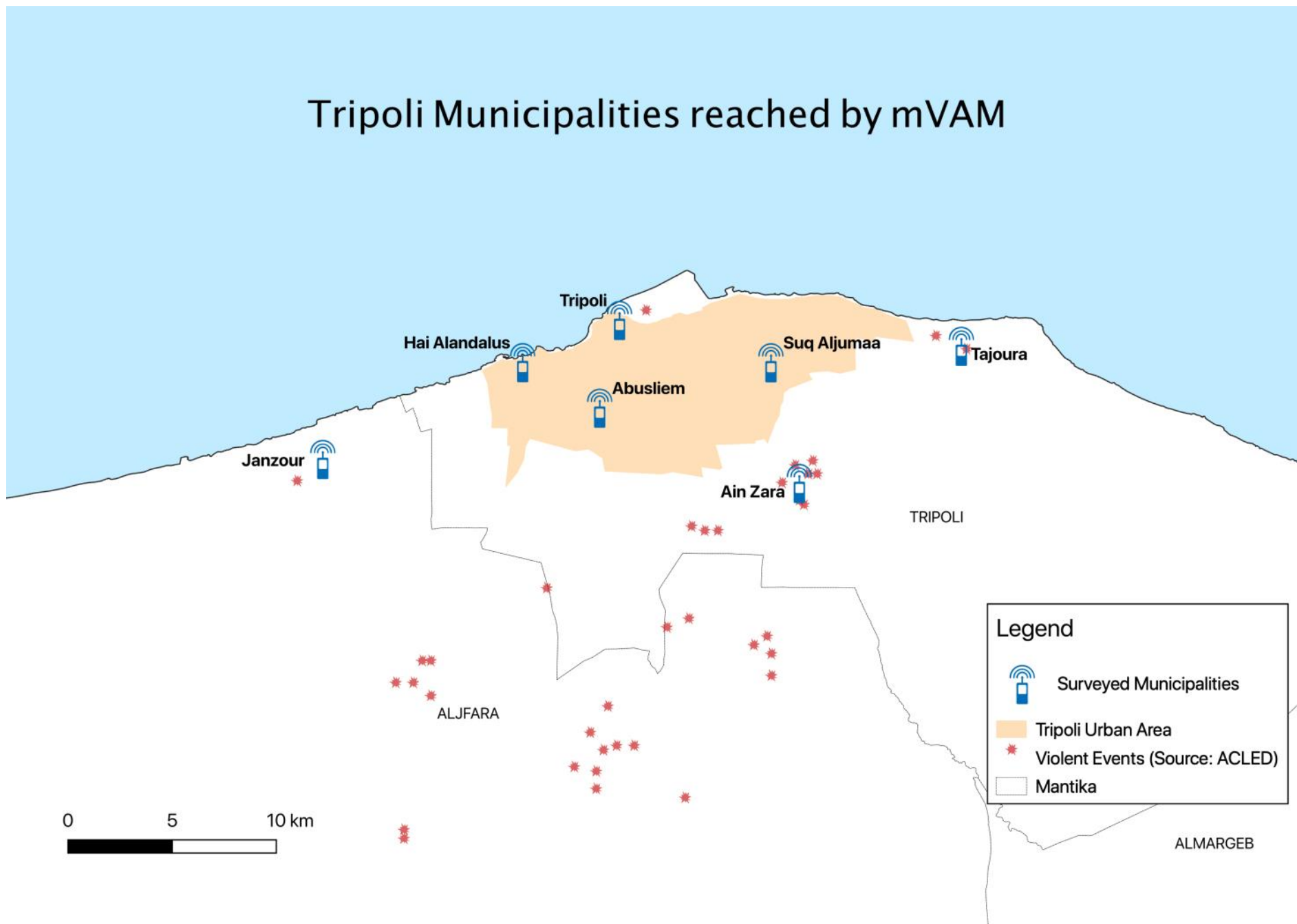


Source: WFP Libya 2018

Limitation

The questionnaire addressed the following thematic areas: displacement, awareness of food assistance, market situation, liquidity crisis, access to health and education. Tripoli residents gave their perception on the humanitarian situation and therefore the accuracy of the information is limited to the knowledge of respondents. Municipalities in suburban Tripoli (Qasr Ben Gashir, Swani Bin Adam) were not assessed.

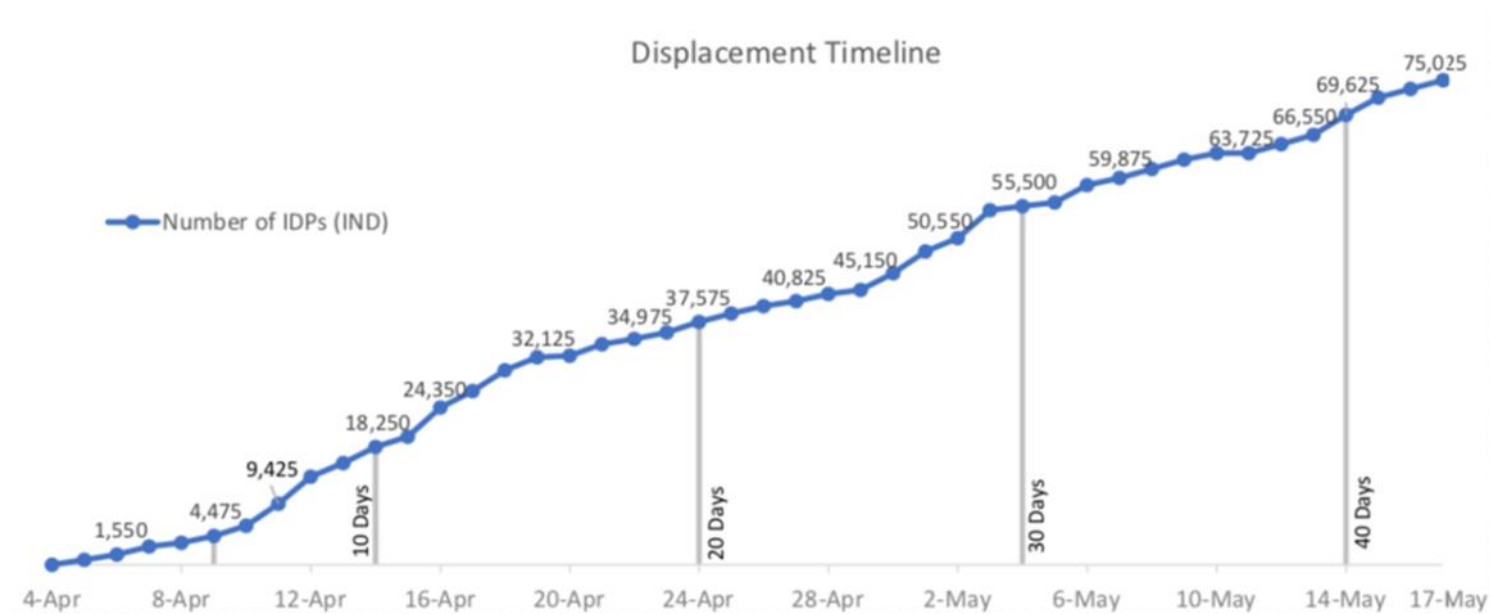
Tripoli Municipalities reached by mVAM





A quarter of people interviewed indicate intention to move

- 27% of respondents expressed an intention to move from their home if conflict continues. This percentage is higher in Suq Aljumaa (45%) and Tripoli centre (44%). However, **respondents indicated that they don't necessarily have a safe place to move to.**
- As reported by IOM, most of the displaced people come from areas close to the clashes in Southern Tripoli (Ain Zara, Qasr Ben Gashir). In eastern Tripoli, Tajoura respondents also indicate that many households have left their homes.
- The majority of IDP families are currently staying in private accommodation ([IOM DTM](#)). mVAM respondents indicate that they are mostly hosted by family or friends, but community shelters and rented accommodations were also mentioned. 2,700 IDPs are hosted in 29 collective shelters ([OCHA](#)).



Source: [IOM DTM](#)



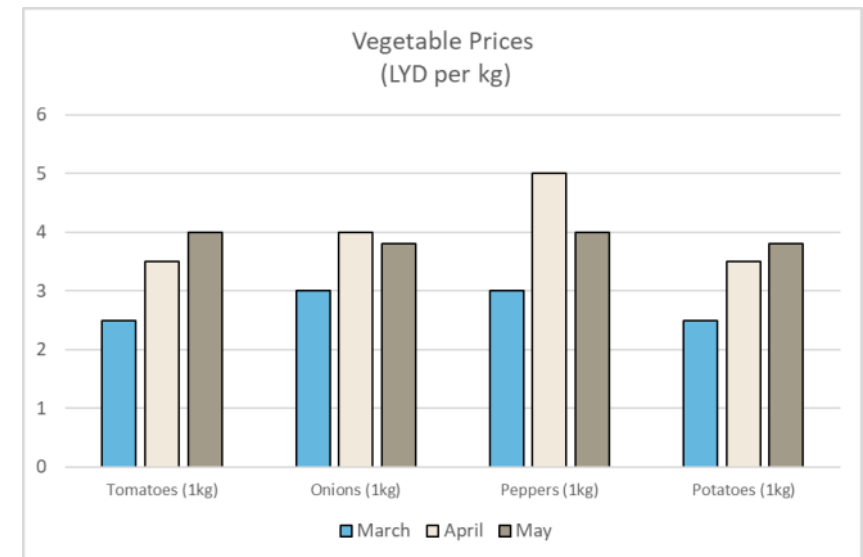
Food assistance reaches Tripoli

- Half of the respondents know about food assistance delivered to vulnerable people in their municipality. **ICRC, WFP and STACO* are the organisations currently delivering food that most respondents are familiar with.**
- In the Tajoura municipality, only 20% of the respondents are aware of food distributions to vulnerable people.



Markets are open but vegetables are expensive

- 91% of respondents have no issue in accessing local markets but in Ain Zara, 25% of the respondents indicate it's too dangerous to go to the market – the situation varies within Ain Zara as the municipality is large and some parts are directly affected by the clashes. In particular, in Khallat al Furjan neighbourhood (Ain Zara) and Swani Bin Adam municipality, **all markets were reported to be closed during the first weeks of May** ([IOM DTM](#)).
- **Food products are mostly available in the local markets of Tripoli.** In Ain Zara, some respondents (14%) report troubles in **finding cooking fuel, milk or tomatoes which confirm disparities in availability of food products between areas in close proximity to the clashes and the rest of Tripoli** ([REACH](#) and [IOM](#)).
- **Bread price is stable:** 4 regular-size loaves of bread cost 1 LYD in all monitored municipalities.
- **Main staple (couscous, pasta, rice) prices are stable.** These commodities are mostly imported and road access to Tripoli as well as sea access through the ports are open at the time of reporting. Impact of conflict on imported goods supply chains could take longer thanks to available stocks.
- **Fresh vegetable prices have increased by more than 20% since the beginning of the crisis.** Fresh vegetables are locally produced in farms south of Tripoli (Qasr Bin Ghasheer and Wadi Rabie) and the main wholesale vegetable market is also in Southern Tripoli (Qasr Bin Ghasheer). Supply chain are disrupted by the conflict and an increase in demand due to the month of Ramadan are driving the price increases. Respondents in Tripoli centre also indicate that **the price of milk and vegetable oil has increased.**

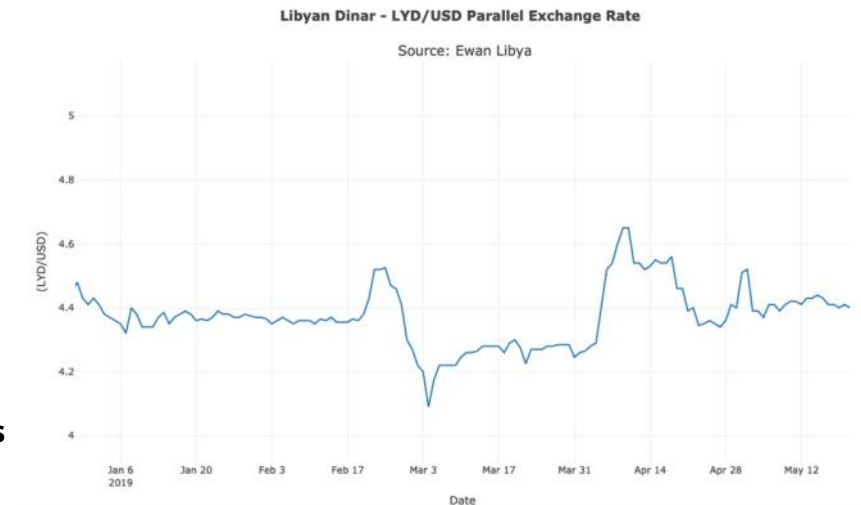


*STACO, a Libyan organization, is partnering with WFP and other UN and international agencies to provide humanitarian assistance.



Liquidity issues in Ain Zara and Hai Andalus

- The Oil sector has not been severely affected by the conflict on the day of reporting, but Libya's oil exports (and main revenue) are likely to become impacted if no ceasefire is reached.
- There is little variation on the LYD/USD parallel exchange rate. May 20th rate is: 4.4 LYD/USD. Daily variations can be followed [here](#). The parallel exchange rate is a strong driver of imported food items prices, but a fixed rate of 3.9 LYD/USD for importers introduced in September 2018 helped to stabilise the economy.
- **48% of respondents indicate having more issues than usual to access cash.** Access to cash is particularly difficult in Ain Zara where all respondents report more issues than usual. In Hai Alandalus, 71% of respondents also report issues in getting cash. Displaced families are also more likely to be affected by liquidity issues due to additional difficulties in withdrawing money in bank branch that they are not registered in.
- **People mostly cope with difficulties in accessing cash by using their savings.** Cheques are sometimes used as an alternative to cash, but a 1000 LYD cheque is exchanged for only 900 or 800 LYD in cash.
- **Some respondents also mention borrowing money or buying food on credit.**
- Most banks in Tripoli received cash on 5 May, which they distributed with a ceiling of 1-2,000 LYD. However, people had to contend with long delays, waiting in line for hours and were sometimes not able to withdraw because the cash had run out. Banks in Sebha, in the South, received cash on 19 May but banks in Southern Libya usually receive cash less regularly (source key informants).





Conflict damages water & electricity supply

- 30% of respondents indicate experiencing water cuts – sometimes for several days. Some respondents indicate coping with water issues by getting their water through domestic wells. **Additionally, on 19 May, a water control station in southwestern Libya (Jabal al-Hasawna) was deliberately shut down, cutting off the water supply from the Great Man-Made River (GMMR) to Tripoli and some cities in the western and middle areas of Libya. Water was restored on 21 May. An estimated 1,5 million people rely on the GMMR as their primary supplier of freshwater (OCHA).**
- 27% of respondents indicate experiencing electricity cuts for more than 6 hours per day since the beginning of the crisis, probably due to damages to power supply chains. In Tajoura, this percentage goes up to 50%.



Health facilities are overwhelmed and lack medicine

- Hospitals and health centres are reportedly open, but lack of medicine is often mentioned. The health sector situation was already precarious before the clashes, but hospitals face additional difficulties covering all the needs with recent casualties and lack of health equipment. People with resources often seek health assistance abroad (source key informants).



Children not attending school as security situation deteriorates

- **During data collection, only 45% of respondents with children report sending their children to school.** In Ain Zara, none of the 5 respondents with children are sending them to school, either because they are closed (3 respondents) or because they consider it too dangerous (2 respondents). In each municipality, some schools were reported as closed (sometimes used as collective shelters for displaced families).
- In the West, the school year has been officially suspended by the Ministry of Education since 9 May and should resume at the end of Ramadan on 9 June for grades 6 to 9.



For further information

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mVAM Resources

Website: http://vam.wfp.org/sites/mvam_monitoring/

Blog: mvam.org

Toolkit: <http://resources.vam.wfp.org/mVAM>

