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 worsening since April 2019 to the present day.

WFP assists food insecure and vulnerable people in Libya, including crisis-affected internally displaced people (IDPs), returnees, non-displaced populations, refugees, asylum-seekers and migrants living in urban settings. The operation works under its Interim Country Strategic Plan (ICSP), which helps WFP and its partners to work with the Libyan people to achieve zero hunger by 2030, in line with the Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs). The ICSP includes general food assistance and emergency food assistance as well as the implementation of programmes that include school feeding and food-for-training for resilience-building and the empowerment of youth and women. 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. In 2020, WFP plans to reach 182,000 people in need.

In Libya, WFP leads the Food Security Sector, the Logistics Sector, the Emergency Telecommunications Sector, and manages the UN Humanitarian Air Service (UNHAS) and the UN Hub in Benghazi.

Operational Updates

- Amid continuing armed clashes and a highly unstable political, security and economic situation in Libya, the novel coronavirus (COVID-19) continues to spread globally. In Libya, WFP is working with its local partners to ensure food support continues, while taking all safety measures against potential transmission of COVID-19. This includes thorough disinfection, physical distancing, and smaller distribution sites.

- WFP is fully aligned with Libya’s priority to ensure distance learning takes place while schools are closed to prevent the spread of COVID-19. Starting 30 March, thanks to the efforts of the school feeding focal points and the education offices, WFP began the distributions of date bars as take-home rations for the schoolchildren and their families that are enrolled in the programme. Distributions are undertaken by school officials outside of curfew hours and with all COVID-19 precautions in place. Further details on WFP’s southern Libya school feeding programme are available here.

- WFP is working within the Rapid Response Mechanism & the Migration Resources and Response Mechanism to look into the best options for the way forward in adjusting procedures to adapt to the new circumstances caused by the COVID-19 pandemic.

- In March 2020, WFP reached approximately 104,793 people in need through its programmes in Libya: general food distributions, emergency food distributions as packages for migrants in urban settings, emergency food distributions through the Rapid Response Mechanism to internally displaced people, school feeding, and food for training initiatives in Sebha.

- In March, WFP Libya released an Agriculture and Livelihood Needs Assessment of the Fezzan region of Libya. The assessment sought to understand why households slow or stop their agricultural activities and to investigate how the region is affected by the crisis in the country. The report will be used to plan intervention measures with local partners and help support resilient agricultural livelihoods in the region.
**WFP Country Strategy**

**Interim Country Strategic Plan (2019-2020)**

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Total Requirements (in USD)</th>
<th>Allocated Contributions (in USD)</th>
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</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>64 m</td>
<td>30 m</td>
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<tr>
<td>2020 Requirements (in USD)</td>
<td>Six-Month Net Funding Requirements (in USD) (May – October 2020)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>32 m</td>
<td>11.1 m</td>
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</tbody>
</table>

**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**:
- 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**:
- 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**:
- Provide logistics sector services to humanitarian partners in Libya
- Provide air services for personnel and light cargo (United Nations Humanitarian Air Service - UNHAS)
- Provide common ICT to humanitarian partners in Libya
- The opening of the UN Hub in Benghazi, a UN compound shared by all UNSMIL and UN agencies

**Monitoring**

- The Joint Market Monitoring Initiative for March led by REACH has been published. Highlights include: 1) The price of unofficial liquified petroleum gas has continued to vary significantly by region reflecting the ongoing impact of the oil blockade imposed in January. 2) The National Oil Company is considering to "cut subsidies to all non-essential expenses" in the next months. The fuel prices may subsequently rise. 3) In March, the exchange rate reached 5 LYD/USD, which is the highest recorded figure since December 2018.
- In March, WFP’s third-party monitor conducted 103 onsite monitoring visits to monitor food distributions across the western and southern regions of the country as well as the rapid response mechanism (RRM). The monitoring activities included examining prevention measures taken by the implementing partners against COVID-19. Furthermore, WFP carried out two Quick Needs Assessments in the Awiniya and Benghazi host communities. As a result, 150 households in Awiniya and 2,325 households in Benghazi were confirmed vulnerable and WFP will be targeting them in the April distribution round of food assistance.

**Challenges**

- In response to the pandemic, WFP has revised the Food Distribution Standard Operating Procedures to minimize any risk of exposure in line with WHO recommendations and measures from the Ministries of Health of Tunisia and Libya. WFP will be distributing WHO-produced awareness leaflets along with WFP rations and is working with cooperating partners to ensure the application of precautionary measures regarding the rearrangement of distribution sites, avoiding crowding and ensuring preventive hygiene and sanitation measures.
- Recent reports highlight a rise in food prices and scarcity of some types of food in certain areas because of the COVID-19 pandemic. IDPs and migrants are the most vulnerable population groups and are expected to be the first to be impacted. WFP with its partners is currently undertaking further assessments to analyse the potential impact of the pandemic and is taking all the necessary measures to adjust its operations to reach people in need of food assistance while guaranteeing their protection.
- WFP has noted a rise in partner requests for food assistance. WFP is responding accordingly but will require additional funding in order to ensure it can continue to respond proactively to further upsurges in needs.

**Core Common Services**

- The WFP-managed Common Feedback Mechanism has been selected by the Ministry of Health’s National Centre for Disease Control to serve as a COVID-19 information channel and hotline. The call centre will allow for quick remote health checks for callers, provide information on official guidelines and raise awareness about the virus and how to protect from it. The Emergency Telecommunications Sector (ETS) is also supporting other sectors and UN OCHA on tech for COVID-19 coordination.
- The Logistics Sector continues to provide sector-wide updates on relevant issues in Libya as they unfold. The Sector is also monitoring roads and ports as the COVID-19 situation develops.
- UNHAS, operated by WFP, is a critical service which continues to connect the country, ensuring safe, reliable air access for the humanitarian and development community in Libya despite access constraints. The operation is taking precautionary measures to ensure the safety of its passengers and staff during the COVID-19 pandemic. UNHAS access to the entirety of the country is of crucial importance to the continuation of humanitarian and development assistance in Libya, in particular at this challenging time when both the pandemic and worsening clashes make safe, reliable access even more necessary.

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