



World Food Programme

SAVING LIVES  
CHANGING LIVES



## WFP Libya Country Brief April 2020

### 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.



Population: 6.6 million Libyans + 0.67m migrants/refugees (estimated)

### In Numbers

102,076 people assisted  
in April 2020



785 MT of food assistance distributed in March

USD 10.1 m six-month (June – November 2020) net funding requirements

### Operational Updates

- In April 2020, WFP reached approximately 102,076 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 and school feeding. WFP continues to adapt its programmes to reach people in need of food assistance while prioritizing COVID-19 measures.
- WFP is fully aligned with Libya and the Ministry of Education's priority to ensure distance learning takes place while schools are closed to prevent the spread of COVID-19, and continues to distribute date bars as take-home rations for the schoolchildren and their families that are enrolled in the programme. In April, WFP reached 15,046 schoolchildren and their families. Distributions are undertaken by WFP-trained school officials outside of curfew hours and with all COVID-19 precautions in place.
- WFP partnered with IOM to provide urgent support to thousands of migrants and to facilitate the timely provision of ready-to-eat (RTE) food assistance to migrants in urban locations. WFP supplies one-month RTE food kits for distribution by IOM's Migrant Resource and Response Mechanism (MRRM). The [four-month pilot phase](#) aimed to reach migrants in urban settings in 7 Baladiyahs: Algatroun, Bani Waleed, Benghazi, Misrata, Sebha, Tripoli and Zwara.
- The operation has received a [generous donation](#) of EUR 350,000 from the Government of France in support of its agricultural reform and livelihoods project in the South of Libya, which aims to create jobs through the development of sustainable food systems.
- WFP Libya has launched its commodity e-voucher transfer modality. People in need of monthly unconditional food assistance started collecting their entitlements at selected shops. Each family is currently receiving entitlements sufficient to cover two months of assistance, while being able to choose from pre-selected commodities. Safety measures to prohibit the spread of COVID-19 are being stringently implemented in shops. During this first phase, the project aims to reach 5,000 people in need in Tripoli.

Photo Caption: WFP and IOM RRM distribution in Garabouli city ©WFP

## Interim Country Strategic Plan (2019-2020)

Total Requirements (in USD)	Allocated Contributions (in USD)
<b>64 m</b>	<b>33 m</b>
2020 Requirements (in USD)	Six-Month Net Funding Requirements (in USD) (June – November 2020)
<b>32 m</b>	<b>10.1 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:

- 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

- In April, WFP's third-party monitor conducted 77 onsite monitoring visits to monitor food distributions across the western and southern regions of the country. The monitoring activities were included to examine preventive measures taken by the implementing partners against COVID-19 during the distributions.
- WFP conducted a quick needs assessment (QNA) in seven locations in the eastern region. As a result, 297 families were confirmed vulnerable. WFP will support these families in the May distribution round of food assistance.

### Gender/Protection

- WFP is an active Gender Working Group member, and is currently discussing how to adopt a Monitoring Analysis and Reporting Arrangement (MARA) with regard to conflict-related sexual violence. It has been agreed to establish a MARA Working Group among international humanitarian actors operating in Libya.
- A harmonized Protection Monitoring approach has been adopted for COVID-19, with a decision to develop a joint tool for standardized collection of information on COVID-19-related protection risk trends.

## Challenges

- In response to the pandemic, WFP has revised its food distribution standard operating procedures in line with WHO recommendations and measures from the Ministries of Health of Tunisia and Libya to minimize any risk of exposure to COVID-19. 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 ensuring their protection. As of early April 2020, the Food Security Sector has already been receiving requests for support by the authorities of several municipalities across Libya. The coordination will continue, and the Food Security Sector is working hard to support its partners in continuing to find funding for vital assistance that will be needed by a growing number of people in Libya in the coming months.
- WFP has further noted a rise in 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](#) allows for quick remote health checks for callers, provides information on official guidelines and raises awareness about the virus and protection measures.
- 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; its 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. In April UNHAS welcomed a generous contribution of USD 520,000 from Switzerland and USD 300,000 from the USA (OFDA).

## Donors

Canada, CERF, Germany, Italy, Japan, Luxembourg, Netherlands, USA (OFDA), United Nations Peacebuilding Fund (PBF), Switzerland, EU (ECHO).

**Contact info:** Ms. Flavia Brunetti (flavia.brunetti@wfp.org)

**Country Director:** Mr. Samer Abdeljaber

Further information: [www.wfp.org/countries/Libya](http://www.wfp.org/countries/Libya)