

“  
WE’VE ALL BEEN  
SEEKING EVERY WAY  
POSSIBLE TO NOT LET  
COVID-19 DEFEAT US

MOHAMED ESHKAL | LIBYA

SAVING  
LIVES  
CHANGING  
LIVES

## WFP Libya Country Brief August 2020

## In Numbers

**109,244 people assisted**  
in August 2020



**767 MT** of food assistance distributed in August

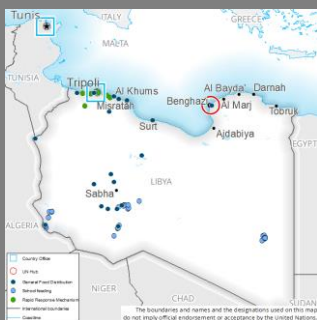
**USD 6.2 m** six-month (September 2020 – February 2021) net funding requirements

### Operational Context

Efforts to reach a peaceful conclusion to the conflict 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 worsening since April 2019 to the present day. The effects of the coronavirus pandemic and the restrictions implemented to prevent its spread have deeply impacted Libya.

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 & 0.63 m migrants/refugees (estimated)**

### Operational Updates

- In August 2020, WFP reached approximately 109,244 people in need through its programmes in Libya, which include direct general and emergency food distributions, emergency food distributions through the inter-agency Rapid Response Mechanism, food support through the new e-voucher modality, and at-home delivery of the school feeding project.
- Following the GNA announcement of a full 24-hour lockdown for four days until 29 August, in-kind and e-voucher distributions in the West (Tarhuna, Tawergha, Tripoli, Mezda and Zwara) had to be postponed, affecting about 25,000 beneficiaries, who will receive their August 2020 food entitlement early September once the curfew is lifted. WFP Libya successfully completed its scheduled distributions in the East and the South, including one inter-agency [rapid emergency response](#) for 341 Sudanese asylum-seekers in the South (Traghan), during the extended curfew hours, under special permission from the Local authorities.
- WFP, in consultation with the Ministry of Education and their municipality offices, distributed a second round of take-home school feeding rations to 18,379 schoolchildren and their families in Alkufra, Alqatroun, Alsharkiya and Ghat in August. WHO-produced COVID-19 awareness and prevention leaflets were also be distributed along with WFP rations.
- Since end April, the commodity e-voucher transfer modality successfully met the goal of reaching 5,000 people in need in Tripoli on a monthly basis. In August, WFP Libya [scaled up its e-voucher commodity programme](#) by extending it to Zwara region, transitioning 5,000 people from the existing General Food Assistance to the new modality. Recipients can redeem their food parcels at local stores through the use of a locally developed app, stimulating the economy and raising partner tech capacity. Measures to prohibit the spread of COVID-19 continue to be stringently implemented.
- WFP Libya received a generous donation of EUR 3.5 million from Italy, the biggest contribution since the reopening of the operation in 2014.

## Interim Country Strategic Plan (2019-2020)

Total Requirements (in USD)	Allocated Contributions (in USD)
<b>64 m</b>	<b>38 m</b>
2020 Requirements (in USD)	Six-Month Net Funding Requirements (in USD) (September 2020 – February 2021)
<b>32 m</b>	<b>6.2 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 and Assessment

- WFP's third-party monitoring partner conducted 80 onsite visits to monitor general food distributions across the East, West and South of the country.
- Mid-year M&E outcome results were compared with mobile Vulnerability Analysis and Mapping (mVAM) data, confirming WFP's prioritisation strategy with WFP-assisted households being the most vulnerable in comparison to non-assisted households evaluated. In the South, the acceptable food consumption scores decreased significantly in 2020, from 89 to 66.3 percent, to a level lower than in 2018 (76.2 percent). This shows how COVID-19 related restrictions and impacts, such as an increase in prices and the loss of employment and salary, severely impacted households' access to food. Non-assisted households in the South also showed slightly deteriorating conditions, with 2.4 percent having a poor food consumption score in June 2020.
- Two quick needs assessments were conducted to assess the needs of newly identified vulnerable people in the East and South. Considering the increased number of food assistance

requests and the need for a heightened, quick response based on analytical evidence, WFP has been revising the indicators of the Quick Needs Assessment and Beneficiary Vulnerability Score Cards to ensure timely identification of newly vulnerable people.

## Gender

- The methodology for a Gender Gap Analysis in Libya, aiming at understanding the gender context, any potential gaps in programmatic interventions and actions to be implemented, is currently being defined with a newly recruited gender expert.

## Challenges

- As a result of the insecurity and socio-economic impacts of COVID-19, humanitarian organizations, including WFP, have been receiving a high number of requests for food assistance from national and local authorities across Libya. Since March, requests for assistance for more than 100,000 additional people to those WFP already assists were received. The WFP Country Director met with several mayors who reiterated this continuing and increasing need for further food assistance, notably for IDPs and migrants.
- Lack of funding is threatening WFP's activities, with a pipeline break foreseen in October. Funding is urgently required to respond to rising needs and to ensure that this global health crisis does not also become a food crisis in Libya.

## Core Common Services

- The WFP-managed Emergency Telecommunications Sector (ETS) Common Feedback Mechanism, also serving as a national COVID-19 information channel and hotline, addressed 1,941 calls in August. ETS configured Internet Connectivity Service at a UNHCR Community Day Centre for refugees in Tripoli; the service is now available to help refugees connect to their loved ones and communities.
- The Food Security Sector in Libya [launched an online interactive dashboard](#), which currently displays FSS partners' activities in January 2020 through July 2020 and will be updated on a monthly basis.
- In August, UNHAS performed weekly flights connecting the East and the West of the country at the same time - going from Tunis to Tripoli and Benghazi and then back - [providing vital access and essential COVID-19 supplies](#). UNHAS is in urgent need of funding, risking termination of its critical air support for the humanitarian and development community in Libya if additional financial resources are not received.

**Donors** CERF, EU Humanitarian Aid, France, Germany, Italy, Japan, Luxembourg, Switzerland, USA, United Nations Peacebuilding Fund, WFP Multilateral Donors

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