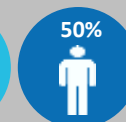




## WFP Libya Country Brief April 2021

### In Numbers

97,982 people assisted  
in April 2021



814 MT of food assistance  
in April 2021

USD 419,500 of voucher assistance  
in April 2021

USD 10.8 million six-month net funding  
requirements (June – November 2021)

### Operational Context

Persistent insecurity and instability since Libya's 2011 uprising have led the socioeconomic, humanitarian and protection environment to deteriorate significantly. A decade later, many households are struggling to meet their basic needs and face high unemployment rates, a severe economic downturn and struggling public services, compounded by the absence of previously elaborate social safety nets. Sudden-onset shocks, including the emergence of COVID-19, have also rendered the situation more complex. But momentum towards peace is building, with a ceasefire agreed in October 2020 and an interim Government of National Unity appointed in March 2021.

Confronted with this multi-layered and volatile crisis, WFP has maintained its ability to rapidly adapt and respond to needs. Under its Interim Country Strategic Plan (ICSP) 2019-2021, WFP assists food-insecure and vulnerable people in Libya, including crisis-affected internally displaced persons, returnees, non-displaced populations, refugees, asylum-seekers and migrants in urban settings. The ICSP encompasses general and emergency food assistance as well as complementary programmes such as school feeding and food assistance for training to build resilience and empower youth and women. WFP also engages across the humanitarian-development-peace nexus and supports the review and rehabilitation of social protection systems.

WFP co-leads the Food Security Sector and leads the Logistics and Emergency Telecommunications Sectors. To strengthen the humanitarian community's capacity, WFP manages the UN Humanitarian Air Service and UN Hub in Benghazi.



Population: 6.7 million Libyans and 0.63 million migrants/refugees (estimated)

### Operational Updates

- In April, WFP reached over 97,500 people in need through its programmes in Libya, which include general and emergency food distributions, commodity e-vouchers, food assistance for training activities and school feeding at non-formal education schools in Sebha under the Education Cannot Wait Fund.
- Over 24,000 vulnerable individuals in urban areas redeemed commodity e-vouchers for redemption of food assistance at local stores. These SMS-based vouchers have the triple benefit of restoring dignity to beneficiaries, stimulating the economy and helping strengthen the technological capacity of local partners.
- Together with local partners and UNHCR, WFP provided ready-to-eat food rations to close to 7,000 vulnerable refugees and asylum-seekers in Tripoli, Misurata, Azawia and Zwara, including a number of urgent cases newly released from detention.
- WFP and the World Bank issued the [VAM report volume 5: "Libya - Food Security and Nutrition"](#) based on data collected from some 1,000 households in eight municipalities on food security, labour and nutrition in December 2020 – January 2021. The report indicates an alarming situation: overall, displaced households were more food insecure, with 21 percent reporting inadequate food consumption and over 70 percent adopting either crisis or emergency coping strategies to cope with lack of food or money to buy food 30 days before the survey. Dietary diversity was also low among children, indicating that children ate from the same food groups.
- After the conclusion of the hydroponics pilot in Sebha, WFP distributed food assistance to the 38 households who participated in the course and have grown hydroponic fodder for their camels, goats, sheep and chickens. Each household received enough food to support most food needs for a family of five for two months. This soil-free cultivation technique is far less water-intensive than traditional methods and helps crops grow in challenging locations like dry areas or urban locations with limited space.

**Photo:** A beneficiary collects food rations under a WFP-UNHCR Partnership © WFP

## Interim Country Strategic Plan (2019-2021)

Total Requirements (USD)	2021 Allocated Contributions (USD)
<b>106 million</b>	<b>64 million</b>
2021 Requirements (USD)	Six-Month Net Funding Requirements (USD) (June – November 2021)
<b>42 million</b>	<b>10.8 million</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 services to humanitarian partners in Libya
- Provide air services for personnel and light cargo (UN 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 UNSMIL and UN agencies

## Monitoring and Assessment

- In April, WFP's third-party monitoring partner conducted 92 onsite visits to monitor food distributions across 39 different sites in the West, East and South of the country. April distribution round completed successfully before the Eid Holiday. No report about any incident was received from any location. All the preventive measures to prevent the spread of COVID-19 were partially followed because few beneficiaries were not wearing a face mask.
- WFP conducted 300 random calls to the recipients of the March round of assistance, to collect their feedback regarding the distribution process. The sample was stratified by modality (general food assistance, commodity e-vouchers and ready-to-eat rations) in eight cities in the West and South. Key findings revealed that 97% were satisfied by the food quality, and 65% were satisfied by the food quantity. On the other hand, 93% have reported no issues been experienced in the last distribution, while 7% complained about the long distance and high cost to reach the distribution points. Feedback also showed that more than 95% reported they were asked to follow the distancing measure at the distribution points, only 71% reported the availability of hand-sanitizer and hand washing facilities at the distribution point.

## Gender

- WFP continues to engage women and actors supporting women's rights in the analysis and planning of projects throughout Libya. Local partners and female staff members are fully involved in conflict sensitive analyses completed prior to projects starting. This ensures that livelihoods assistance in different areas is catered to the local needs and cultures, to provide the best opportunities for women to start working and increase their incomes. An example of this was the UN Women-funded vocational training project in Ajdabiya, in which during the planning phase, it was found that transportation to the training venue was a sensitive and difficult issue. Ultimately, shared taxis were used by groups of the women who could then attend trainings.

## Sectors and Common Services

- In April, the UN Humanitarian Air Service (UNHAS) performed weekly flights connecting the East and the West of the country - going from Tunis to Tripoli and Benghazi and back - providing vital access for around 180 passengers from 27 different organizations. Managed by WFP, UNHAS is vitally important in transporting humanitarian actors and light cargo to Libya's main hubs. Funding is currently sufficient for the operation to maintain its services until June.
- The Emergency Telecommunications Sector's (ETS) inter-agency community feedback mechanism (CFM) received around 2200 calls in April from people requesting information or assistance. Most calls were related to humanitarian services and were resolved. The CFM is also being used as a national COVID-19 informational hotline, and its trained operators continue to share official health guidelines and refer suspected COVID-19 cases to the National Centre for Disease Control as required.
- ETS internet connectivity services are also being provided at UNHCR's Community Day Centre in Tripoli to help persons of concern communicate with their communities and loved ones; a total of 171 people used the service in April.

## Challenges

- As a result of insecurity and the socioeconomic impacts of COVID-19, humanitarian organizations including WFP are receiving a high number of requests for food assistance from national and local authorities across Libya. WFP urgently requires USD 10.8 million to sustain its operations through November 2021, in order to respond to the rising needs and ensure that this health crisis does not also become a food crisis.

## Donors (in alphabetical order)

Canada, CERF, Czech Republic, EU Humanitarian Aid, France, Germany, Italy, Japan, Luxembourg, Swiss Agency for Development and Cooperation (SDC), USAID's Bureau for Humanitarian Assistance (BHA), United Nations Peacebuilding Fund, WFP Multilateral Donors, WFP Private Sector Partners, World Bank.